

Southern Enclave

SEPTEMBER

No. 9

The Private Life of a Jedi, Part 2

The Lightsaber by Jenni Hennig

"The Lightsaber is the weapon of a Jedi Knight...an elegant weapon, for a more civilized time..."

This is about the only explanation we are given of the lightsaber. So, perhaps in retaliation, fanfic abounds with explanations of this mysterious weapon. Mostly the explanation is in passing, but it is there. Why the fascination?

One simple excuse is that it is a very NEAT weapon. Who wouldn't give their eyeteeth to own a flaming sword? Very medieval and futuristic, all at once.

Another is the mystery. The lightsaber, like many other things in the SW universe, is left virtually unexplained. The existence of such an interesting weapon is taken totally for granted. We are shown a hilt that has a beam of energy/light that is a mean mother in a bar brawl. It's also a very effective slicer of anatomy. Attach that to the discipline of swordsmanship, the almost religion of the Force--it would seem that the saber is a physical manifestation of the Force and you have a weapon that is not average. It has a mystical quality about it. It becomes an "Excalibur"--a sword to right all wrongs and dispense justice. A tap to the cosmos.

Boy, do I want a lightsaber.

Now that the fascination is apparent, let's get to the lightsaber itself.

The color of the beam has spawned many articles and theories by itself. I won't get heavily into color symbology here other than a tiny dig, because I feel that the subject has been adequately covered. But what we are given has birthed interesting thoughts.

Luke's first saber was blue-white, an appropriate "pure" color for the hero. Vader's is the opposite, an ominous red, the color of death and life, showing him as the harbinger of death/life. Later on, Luke makes his own saber, which shows as green, which is the color of growth and life. So, with red and green, you could have opposite sides of the same coin.

Fandom has taken these basic tenets and run with them. One popular theory states that the saber is a "weather-vane" for the emotional state of the wielder. Red is the color of Darkness and emotional upheaval, blue-white is the passive, less-resisting state. And Luke tends to have trouble in some sto-

ries keeping his saber to white, as do all those first learning the ways of the Force. The saber is an outlet of the control, or lack thereof. Another theory runs close to that, saying that the blade is a traitor's color, the shade of one who has shed a fellow Jedi's blood. Yet another states that the color of the blades is mechanically chosen at the making of the saber. In that case, Vader is definitely a master of emotional theatrics!

All of these theories, save the last, place the lightsaber as a truly mystical weapon. A few follow up on that by saying that the saber can only be handled and made to operate by a Force sensitive. This places Han Solo in a unique position, for he uses the saber to open the taun taun's belly in TESB. Is he a Force-sensitive in this circumstance, or did he just have the need to use it so urgently that it responded? The second one adds even more psychic attunement to the weapon, making it seem to respond to brainwaves and emotions.



The lightsaber has been used for everything from a handy-dandy Jedi Scout pocket knife to an instrument of psychic focus, but its main nature is that of a weapon. It is ancient, and of ancient times used, but does not seem to be anachronistic to Kenobi, Vader or Luke. Indeed, they seem to consider it a part of themselves, and in giving Luke his father's saber, Kenobi also gives Luke a part of his father. But the Emperor seems to see it as a toy, and Han Solo is one of the first to denounce it. Truly, in the age of more "efficient" blasters and projectiles, why use the lightsaber?

The answer lies in that it is not only a weapon

but a symbol. One of an order, one of denial of mechanization, one of a Jedi's knowledge, faith and ability in the Force. Otherwise, a blaster would do just as well, under Force talents. But the Jedi are not "common" soldiers, and their weapons are not "common", either. The lightsaber is an example of the inner being to them, an example of times of power, "an elegant weapon, for a more civilized time."

And as to the ones who wield this power? Ah, let's save that for next time.

(But I still want a lightsaber...)

An Interview With Harrison Ford

Transcribed by Carolyn Golledge

[This interview was aired on TERRY WILLESEE TONIGHT in Sydney, Australia, on Monday, April 29, 1985. Thanks to Carolyn Golledge for sharing it with us!]

Introduction by Terry Willesee, before showing pre-taped interview: "One of Hollywood's biggest names is in Sydney to publicize his latest movie, called WITNESS. Harrison Ford can literally name his own price for any movie he cares to work in these days, and is already on his way to joining the true legends of the silver screen. Despite all that, he is genuinely a very modest man. He normally shies away from television interviews. He held a news conference earlier today, but also agreed to give us an exclusive one-to-one interview. Before the interview begins, here's a clip from WITNESS starring Harrison Ford."

Scene in which Book confronts Lou in town.

INTERVIEW (pre recorded):

TW: "Well, Harrison, thanks for taking the time to talk with us today."

HF: "My pleasure."

TW: "I understand that being interviewed is not one of your favorite pastimes?"

HF: (Turns head to right, grins slowly, laughs) "Well, I don't mind the being interviewed part as much as I do get a little bored with talking about myself. Umm...you know, it finally gets to be...(takes a long, deep breath)...an old story." (Looks back at Willesee with that hint of a wry, mischievous smile.)

TW: "Yeah. Why is it...can you understand that people do want to talk about you because you are the star?"

HF: (Chews on lower lip, considering as he listens ...actually appears to blush!) "Well, sure. I mean, I do understand that people are interested in the people that they see in films. They want to know a little bit more about them. (Takes another deep breath, looks upward.) On the other hand...(pauses)...I think, to a certain degree, I'm inclined to feel that the less they know really about me personally the more...the easier it is for me to do my job as an actor which is to represent someone other than who I

actually am."

TW: "You're not the typical star, if I can use that word 'star', which is used a lot in Hollywood, even here in Australia. But how do you find it when you go out in public? Do you consciously try to hide who you are?"

HF: (Looks away again self-consciously) "I don't think I consciously try and hide who I am, I just, err, I just (shrugs) try not to make a display of myself. I prefer to pass unnoticed than be the object of a lot of attention."

TW: "Does that work?"

HF: "Ahh...(nods head)...Usually. I think people are only looking for me in a situation where they expect to see someone like me. (Looks and sounds embarrassed. Is that another blush?) And...walking down the street, I usually get away with it."

TW: (Grins impishly) "So, you don't usually wear the hat around town?"

HF: (Grins and shakes head) "No, I think the hat works against you."

TW: "So, what about when you look back at a film you've worked in, how do you see yourself? Are you always happy with your performance?"

HF: "Like this." (Holds hands over eyes and peeps through fingers. Laughs) "No, I mean, I'm not ever completely happy with a performance. I'm aware of ways that I might have...done better. But I think that's a normal and appropriate reaction."

TW: "Your special abilities were not recognized when you, in your first movie when Columbia Pictures asked you to move along... (HF grins and laughs) Do you, now they've been proved wrong, in the long run, but did you think at the time that perhaps Harrison Ford didn't quite have it?"

HF: (Smiling) "Well, I think I had what was appropriate to play a bell boy." (TW chuckles) "And that's what they had asked me to play. What I was told, and, you're making reference to the story of what I was told after my first screen appearance, I was told that...ahh...by a vice-president of Columbia Pictures, that the

first time Tony Curtis ever appeared on screen you knew that was a movie star." (Makes emphatic gesture with hand.) "And I said to the guy who told me that, I thought I was supposed to be a bell boy, not a movie star. And I think I was right about that from the very beginning." (TW murmurs agreement) "But I did think, I do think that I had a lot to learn about acting. I still think I've got a lot to learn."

TW: "Let's go back to the film WITNESS. The Amish community don't watch television or go to the movies." (HF shakes head and mouths word 'no'.) "Did they co-operate at all in the making of this film which is revolving around their community and their lifestyle?"

HF: "No, they didn't and we, of course, didn't ask them, because we were aware of the fact that it wasn't...appropriate. We did have a number of people who were brought up in the Amish religion but for one reason or another they had left the church, and they were our advisors." (In background clip is shown of Book waking to see the Amish elders standing about his bed.) "And I think we were quite true to the Amish. But it's not a documentary about the Amish; it's a movie, after all, and it's not so much about the Amish as it is about the conflict between the Amish and the outside world."

TW: "You being the outsider."

HF: "Yeah. I hope it does well. I think it's an entertaining film, as well as a serious film, and I hope that people will enjoy it."

TW: "Well, good luck with it. And thanks for talking to us."

HF: "Thank you very much."

TW: "But before we go (HF grins and looks down at a letter Willesee is holding), we've had a letter delivered to us for you, from...ahh...Ainslie of Epping, and she would like to know, if while you're here in Sydney, could you drop out and see her?"

HF: (draws deep breath to answer, smiling)

TW: "And I know that's not possible; perhaps you'd just like to say hello to her."

HF: "Well (looks straight at camera), hello, Ainslie. I'm sorry I can't come, but I hope you'll understand."

[Ironically--or perhaps providentially--a lightning bolt struck near Carolyn's house at this moment, interrupting the transmission for a few seconds.

When the picture came back on, HF was grinning and looking at Willesee.]

TW: "Thanks for talking to us."

HF: "Thank you."

The interview closed with the scene in WITNESS of Book and Rachel in the barn with the car radio.

The following night, Terry Willesee reported that this interview caused an absolute sensation; their biggest ever response, thousands of people jammed the telephone lines, ringing the station asking about Harrison Ford and wanting to know where he was staying. Willesee reported that Harrison Ford's security men were having a hard time trying to keep it secret and protect Mr. Ford.

The following news report was also aired on Sydney's CHANNEL SEVEN NATIONAL NEWS:

(Scene from the making of WITNESS, shown by the station in July last year. Harrison Ford with a can of Fosters [Australian beer], singing "Waltzing Mathilda" with the crew and other actors.) News Reporter: "A jubilant Harrison Ford practising his Aussie strine at the end of filming of his latest movie, WITNESS. The Aussie connection came from the direction of Peter Weir working on his first big budget American movie. WITNESS is a murder thriller set in America's highly religious Amish community. Today, in Sydney, Harrison Ford explained why he enjoyed working with Weir so much."

Scene switches to press conference. Harrison Ford and Peter Weir appear from the back of the room. Harrison removes his reading glasses as he pulls out a chair and sits down. He is wearing a black leather jacket, blue jeans and grey/black broad striped shirt, open at the collar. Soon after seating himself, he removes his jacket. His hair is cut very short, almost crew cut.

Reporter: "He says it gave him the chance to extend his acting beyond the adventure roles of STAR WARS' Han Solo and Indiana Jones."

HF: "I suppose I'm characterized by those, by the other films that you mentioned because they've been such successes. But it's always been my intention and my desire to do different sorts of films, and this presented that opportunity. I thought it was a very well structured script, and I thought if we got a director of the calibre that we finally ended up with (nods to Peter Weir seated beside him), that it might yield something very interesting."

News story ends with scenes from WITNESS.



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Revenge of the Bridge Chairs!!

Jeannie Webster

The Lucas/Spielberg '84 campaign committee (Sally and Joe Smith, Cathy Woldow, Deanna MacKenn, myself, our token Brit, Ros Wheadon, and our token Neo, Kelly Francois) had a busy time at Worldcon in L.A. But no day was busier for us than the one when we saw Carrie Fisher, the infamous blooper reel and the SW trilogy all in one day.

In the middle of the afternoon, Sally, Deanna and I trooped hysterically out of the room where we'd just seen the bloopers. We spotted a small line in front of a nearby building, so, being your typical intrepid (and nosy) fan, we went to investigate. About 5 ft. from the beginning of the line sat Cathy, already camped out for the trilogy. Seems she'd discovered that the theater where it was to be shown only held 1500 people. No one can accuse us of being slow on the uptake. We threatened her with dire mayhem if she so much as shifted position, and hustled off to our room to dump our accumulated crud and pick up such linesitting essentials as pillows and zines. Since there were no more panels we were interested in that day, we proceeded to settle in and keep ourselves busy with general fan nish weirdness until it was time for the show to begin.

By this time the line was growing quickly, giving the mundanes passing the convention center quite an eyeful. After all, not even in NY or LA do you get lines for SW on which every single person is a fan. Freaked the guy from the local pizza place no end; he was very busy delivering to the line most of the night (the show started at midnight) to the accompanying cries of "Piz-za, piz-za, piz-za!! It's not too often that Han, Leia and a group of Imperials in full uniform interrupt their sabacc game to greedily glom onto a pepperoni pizza!

As the night went on, we were joined by the rest of our group. Joe, our official representative to the Hugos, was the last to arrive. He gave us a running description of the events and awards. We already knew about one of them, Howard Kasantian, who'd brought his Hugo out to show the people on line. Needless to say, the fans yelled, screamed and were generally appreciative.

Finally, we were allowed inside. Doing our famous imitations of Indy going through the Cairo bazaar, we managed to get a group of decent seats together. There was a long wait (again) before the show finally started. While waiting, we looked aimlessly around, trying to spot people we thought would be there. Deanna found someone we didn't expect, though. Up in the projectionist's booth was a small, rather familiar looking man—even without his beard. Deanna conferred with Sally, then they conferred with the rest of us. We all turned to stare at the guy, and finally decided it was, in fact, George Lucas.

Maureen Garrett of the SW Fan Club made a small speech, then the trilogy began. The opening credits got a huge cheer which totally amazed the guy in the projection booth. (Yes, we were still sneaking peeks at him. Good thing he was there, too; the

projector kept womping out and he was the one who fixed it each time.) This was nothing, though, to the cheers and screams greeting the first appearances of the principals. Even the Tabernacle of Wedge was out in full (groan) Force! The villains were booed and hissed in true silent movie style. The only thing I've ever seen which was even close was at the World Premiere of the first Trek movie—and in that case it was the first new Trek we'd seen in 10 years.

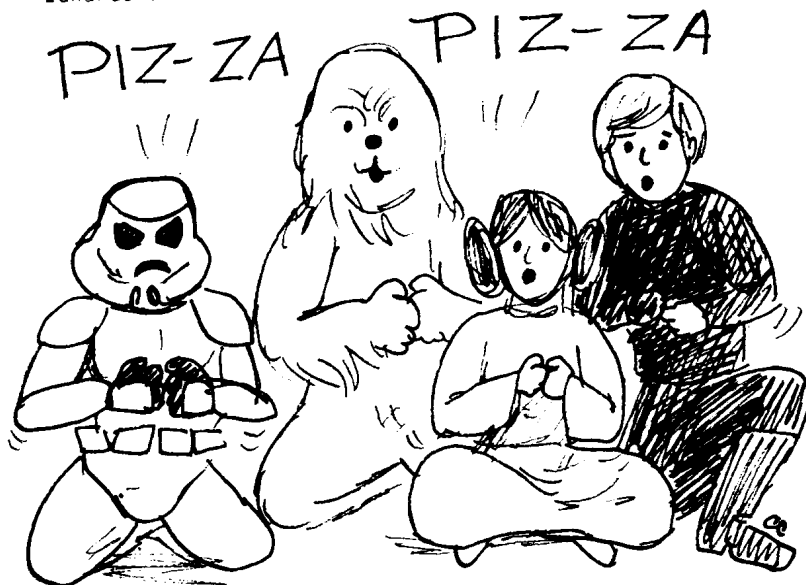
Once TESB had begun, we noticed that George had gone home, but despite the hoarseness, our adrenalin was as high as ever. The only problem was, it was getting difficult to find a comfortable position to sit in. We weren't sitting in fairly comfortable movie theater seats. The auditorium's seating consisted of that gross insult to the human gluteus know as the bridge chair. Fans, being fearless and inventive scum, found the answer. People began leaving their seats and sitting (or lying) on the floor in the aisles or taking up residence on the small staircases at the side entrances. But no one left the theater, at least physically. I and others found that it IS possible to nap during the slower scenes and wake up just in time for the climactic ones.

By the time the last "Allelu!" had been heard, it was 8:30 A.M. Despite that, the audience was awake enough to more than match the standing ovations given through the closing credits of the other two movies.

As a token of either our stamina or our insanity (I'm not sure which), Lucasfilm presented everyone leaving the theater with a tackily large button reading, "I sat through the trilogy" and the date.

By this time, the adrenalin induced high was starting to wear off. Too zombified to eat, thanks to the Black Sleep of Lucasfilm, we staggered off to our room and croaked, swearing, "Never again!"

What's this about Discovery going to land at Edwards at 5 A.M.??



From the desk of

De Olde Ed

As many of you may have heard by now, on Saturday, August 10, 1985, Anne Elizabeth Zeek's roommate, Sara Campbell, suffered a stroke. She was in the hospital at the time, for removal of a tumor. Anne is requesting letters and cards from fellow fans, something short that she will be able to read to Sara to help her in her recovery.

The hospital address is:

Sara Campbell
Klingenstein Clinic
Mt. Sinai Hospital
Floor 5N, Room 525D
100th St. at 5th Ave.
New York, NY 10029

Or you can write Anne Zeek at:

1805 49th St. #D2
Brooklyn, NY 11204

At this writing, I haven't heard anymore on Sara's condition, but can tell you all from first-hand experience, that a positive outlook is essential for a speedy recovery. Two years ago, my husband Randy, then 28, suffered a stroke, though not as debilitating a one as Sara has apparently had. I know what a frightening experience this is and what a long road to recovery is ahead for her. Knowing that there are people pulling for you works wonders. Please write!

You'll notice a little different look beginning with this issue. The triple columns are gone and the zine has a more finished look to it. This is completely due to a change in my work situation. I have been working, for the past three years, at my company's branch office, where I made use of the word processing equipment, a Wang OIS 130 with a daisy character printer. There was quite a bit of production work involved--setting up the columns, printing them out in 10-pitch, having them reduced, relaying them out, etc.

Well, early in July, I was transferred back to the main office where I was able to get my greedy little hands on the word processing equipment in the main center--a big Wang VS 90 with all sorts of lovely enhancements and print options.

You see the results of one of them. By using their laser printer, I am able to print directly in 15-pitch double columns (thereby avoiding the reduction and layout steps). I think the finished product is really nifty-looking and am very pleased with it. I hope you are, too.

There have been several comments made about the articles that are printed in SE, that several people don't like the actor-oriented articles and want more articles dealing strictly with SW. Well, folks, I can't print 'em if I ain't got 'em! I'd like to print more articles like that, too, and we've had some excellent ones in the past. I've had several inquiries for future articles that I have encouraged, but please be aware that SE has a large readership and not everything that's run is going to appeal to everybody. There are those people who

like the actor-oriented articles. SE attempts to appeal to as many different tastes as possible.

Now, a word on another subject. From time to time people send me certified or registered or return receipt mail. This is fine except that a good many of such packages are addressed to me at home and, since my work hours are the same hours as the post office's work hours, and since I work in a different city than that in which I live, and thus there is no one home to accept such packages, it sometimes takes days for me and the post office to make connections. Therefore PLEASE DO NOT SEND ME ANYTHING THAT I HAVE TO SIGN FOR WITHOUT MAKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME FIRST!! If you will contact me before the fact, I will supply you with an address where I can be reached during the day and will be expecting your package. Thanks much!

Finally, I'd like to address the comments being made concerning the Walk of Fame star for Harrison Ford.

It has been said that, because of past quotes, Harrison doesn't really want the star and therefore the fans are working against his express will in supporting this project. To get it straight from the horse's mouth, as it were, I telephoned both Renee Willis, Harrison's secretary, and Ruth Scott, the lady sponsoring the star. Renee informed me that Harrison has been aware of the project all along and would have nixed the project early on if he'd been against it. Renee and the Pat McQueeney Management Agency have worked with Ruth from the beginning, supplying her with necessary information and whatever help she needed. She assured me that everything and everyone involved was completely legitimate and the star project had been launched with their full knowledge and approval.

There have been fans who have said that the money would be better off given to charity. Well, I'll grant them that one, but the amount of money that I have donated to this project doesn't even come close to what I personally donate to charity, and that doesn't come close to the amount that I blow on "toys"--VCRs, a computer, a new car, books, records, clothes, fan junk--for myself. And no matter what I give to the charities I support, I still buy gifts for my friends--birthday gifts, Christmas gifts, anniversary gifts, friendship gifts. For me, the money I have donated to this project is a friendship gift, a way of letting Harrison know that I appreciate him and the hours of entertainment he has given me over the years. It's a little less anonymous than just plunking down \$5 for a movie ticket or even writing a fan letter that will arrive in a sack with 500 others.

The fact of the matter is, I love Harrison Ford, and a lot of other people love him, too. Please don't condemn us if we choose to express it in this way. If you don't wish to join in, then don't. It's as simple as that. And if you want to start a fund to raise a matching amount to be donated to a charity in his name, then by all means, start the ball rolling. I'll be happy to chip in. But, if all you have to contribute is negative comments, then thanks, but no thanks--I'll pass.

Real 'con' finds fans talking film, camping it up, acting favorites

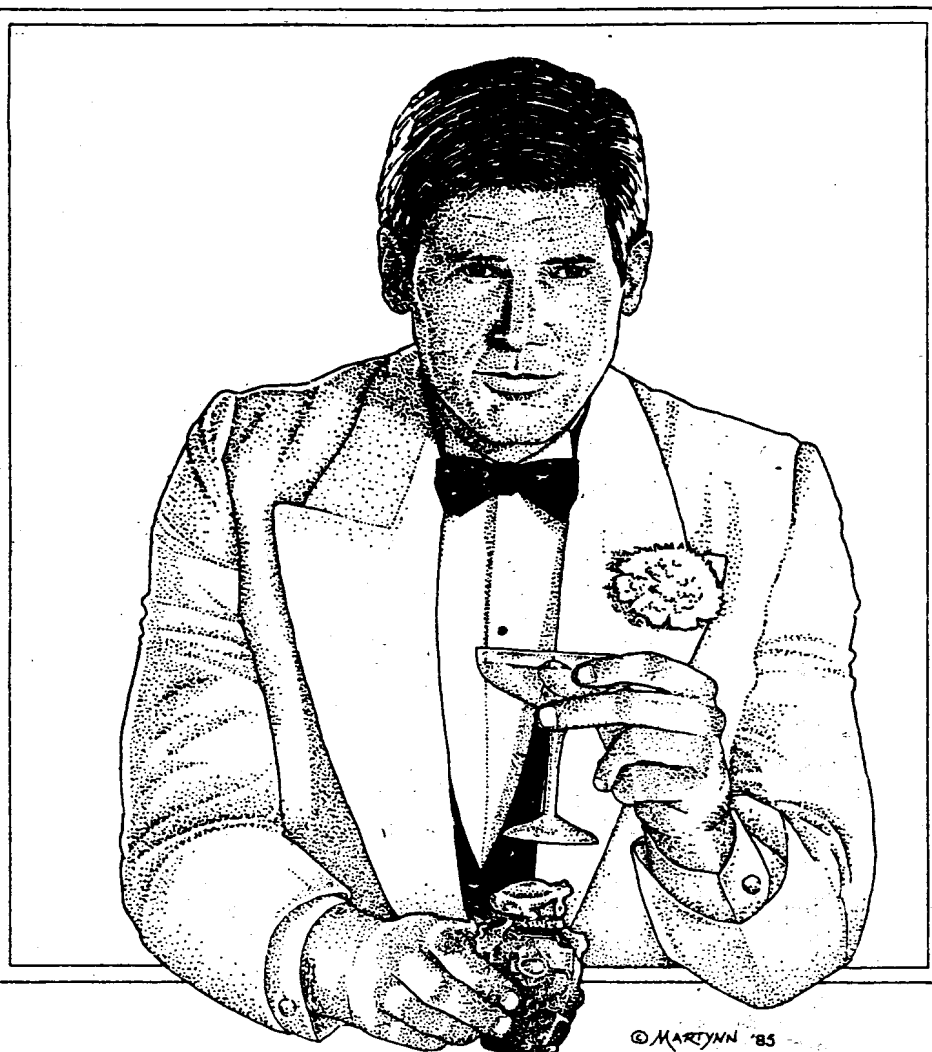
EAST LANSING, Mich. — The young woman in the hotel elevator wears tight black jeans, black knee boots, an open-collared white shirt and a wicked black gun rig on her hip. "Hello," she says cheerfully. "I'm a filthy Corellian pirate."

Down the hall in the restaurant, Mad Max deposits his weary leather-clad body in incongruously cheerful surroundings, his leg brace squeaking. An additional incongruity is the fact that he is a she.

In the dealers' room, Princess Leia in formal regalia peddles a publication entitled On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah.

Welcome to the Lansing Hilton Inn in East Lansing, where every Memorial Day weekend star warriors come down to Earth and figments of fantasy parade through the halls.

Officially, it's MediaWest, an annual gathering for hardcore fans of films, TV shows and fantasy tales. From Friday through Monday



Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) is a favorite of some film fans and their fanzines. This arty likeness graces the cover of the second edition of the 'zine known as Field Studies.



Linda Billington the cutting room floor

they rub elbows, peddle buttons, bumper stickers, photos and fanzines, and discuss — sometimes with disquieting intensity — whether Han Solo was *actually* "the other," or the *real* nature of the relationship between Kirk and Spock.

This MediaWest, the fifth, has drawn 500 fans hailing from New York to California and points in between, plus a lone Anchorage movie columnist curious about just what these strange folk do at a fan convention.

The weekend whips by in double time:

• Button, button, who's got the button? Everyone, that's who. Buttons are ubiquitous, bearing faces, movie scenes, pleas, exhortations, puns and philosophies.

One of special appeal to Alaskans (who use the stuff on furnaces, punctured rafts, survival shelters, airplane wings, picture frames and shattered car windows): "Why is duct tape called The Force? because it's light on one side, dark on the other side, and holds the universe together."

For fans of Anne McCaffrey's Pern dragon novels: "Weyr, oh Weyr can my dragon be?"

"Star Wars" showbiz invades bizbiz: "Graduate of the Darth Vader school of personnel management."

Every aficionado of "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" knows to "Elect Beeblebrox; two heads are better than one."

Finally, a phrase adopted (in another context) from the recent film "Witness" takes a wry view of the whole craze: "Buttons are *hochmut*, proud;



Are you a fan? Test yourself: Who is this man, what is he doing, and why?

"Star Trek." Leonard Nimoy as Mr. Spock battles Capt. Kirk to prove he's a true green-blooded Vulcan, on an episode of the old TV show, "Star Trek."

See Page F-5, FILM

Film-fan convention in Michigan draws devotees of fantasy and 'fanzines'

Anchorage Daily News

Thursday, June 6, 1985

they're not plain."

• Who are these people, anyway? Judicious eavesdropping reveals a handful of the un- and underemployed, as well as a surprising number of lawyers, teachers, a nurse, a personnel manager, a CBS employee and several data processing experts. Women are by far in the majority.

• Speaking strictly on a physical level, this is a gathering of heavyweights. One lizardsly Visitor from the "V" TV series wanders by in a stretchy red bodysuit. The Spandex people could sue for cruel and unusual punishment.

• MediaWest is the only convention booked into the hotel this weekend, to the apparent relief of con-goers. According to reports, in one past year the Hilton also welcomed a concatenation of jocks, who found themselves flummoxed at sharing the halls with sharp-eared Vulcans, junior Jedi knights or time-traveling TARDIS jockeys. Accounts indicate that goodwill was seriously frayed.

This year the "mundanes" — non-fans — are kept to a minimum.

• Partying is rampant: in the rooms, in the lobby, by the pool, in the bar. It doesn't really seem to matter whether you know the organizers, or even the people in whose room you've gathered.

• They're called fanzines, or 'zines for short, and they feature fan-created stories and illustrations, or illos. The quality of the work ranges from the blatantly amateur to the astonishingly professional, but one common thread obtains: The people who create them are doing it for the love, not for the money. There is no money. An enormous amount of time and effort goes into a 'zine that will have a total press run of, say, 200.

Almost all bear disclaimers in officialese, the requisite protestation that no copyright infringement is intended, etc. — a necessity, since most of the characters have stepped right down off the movie or TV screen. 'Zine editors dance on a tightrope; such big boys as Lucasfilm and Paramount have been known to flex legal muscle in an attempt to knock them off. At present, however, a certain balance seems to have been attained.

'Zines being sold or advertised include tales devoted to "Simon and Simon," the "Star Wars" trilogy, "Star Trek," "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," "Ladyhawke," "Miami Vice" and a host of others. Cancellation does not wither, nor does it stale, devotion to "Battlestar Galactica," "The Prisoner," "V," "Wizards and Warriors,"

"The Wild, Wild West," "Alias Smith and Jones," "Bonanza" and "Space 1999."

The 'zines' titles frequently reflect their bent: Field Studies (Indiana Jones), The Wookiee Commode ("Star Wars"), Just Deserts ("Rat Patrol"), Anglo File ("Dr. Who" and other British fantasies), Wide Open Spaces (TV and movie Westerns).

• The masquerade competition lures some folk who have apparently spent the past year perfecting their attire. A birdlike alien with feathered face spreads her velvet robe — adorned by a firebird pattern picked out in 40,000 hand-sewn sequins and beads.

Sometimes, however, less is more. Witness the two young men who come, jointly,

as Dr. Who — clad only in the galaxy-hopping Doctor's knitted scarf. The scarf is long, but not that long. The outfit is a crowd-pleaser.

• The Art Show offers everything from a tiny pencil sketch of James Kirk to large, detailed oils straight out of the artist's fantasies. At Sunday night's art auction, the top-price painting brings \$651.

• Equity and SAG have nothing to worry about, but the amateur actors who stage the con's theatricals have plenty of fun.

"Mr. Rogers' Universe" features a sweated Mr. Rogers interviewing a family of sentient worms; the nematodes (sock puppets bearing eyes, hair and even spectacles) burst into a chorus of "We Are the Worms . . ."

Seen on a movie marquee:

INDIANA JONES
THE NATURAL
FIRESTARTER

Equity and SAG have nothing to worry about, but the amateur actors who stage the con's theatricals have plenty of fun.

If that weren't enough, another group sets "Star Trek III: The Search for Spock" to Cole Porter music; "Let's Fall in Love" metamorphoses into "Let's Steal the Ship" and "Be a Clown" into (what else?) "Beam Us Down."

• By Monday noon, the nonstop partying has taken its toll. "This is a fairly quiet

con," one of my roommates says. You couldn't prove it by me. Someday I'll catch up on my sleep. Someday. In a galaxy far, far away.

□ Linda Billington, Daily News arts editor, writes weekly on movies.



Harrison Ford, Ripon College, Class of '64

Q Is Harrison Ford—who reached screen stardom by playing in the "Star Wars" movies and the Steven Spielberg films "Raiders" and "Indiana Jones"—the same Harry Ford who went to high school in Park Ridge, Ill., in the late '50s and to Ripon College in the '60s? If so, how much is he worth?—T.R., Ripon, Wis.

A He is one and the same. At 42, Ford is probably a multimillionaire.

Harrison Ford, the star of *Witness*, the film that opened the festival, also handled his share of arcane questions. For example, since the robot in his film *Blade Runner* and the Amish woman in *Witness* have the same name — Rachel — he was asked whether a statement was being made about characters on the opposite edges of society? Looking momentarily helpless at the necessity of explaining the relationships of movies that are not related, Ford settled for, "The only similarity is that I have the same haircut in both movies." A few questions later, Ford was asked about the significance of his haircut.

notices

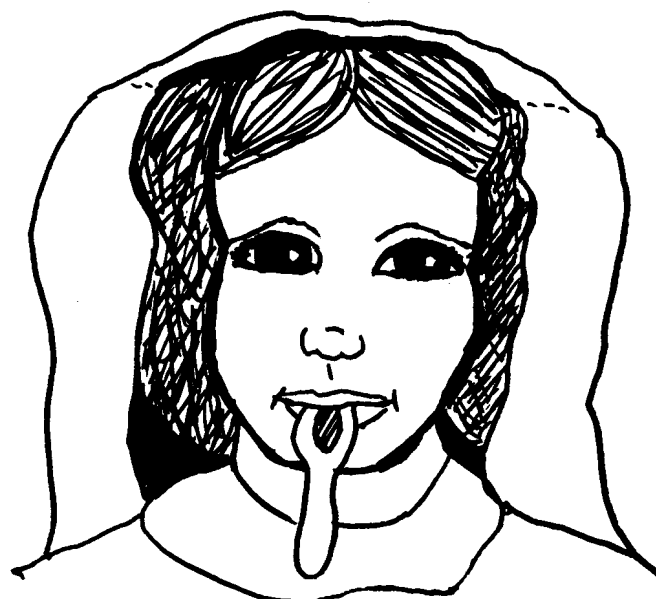
Due to circumstances beyond our control (mainly my continued illness and recent fiscal problems), DARKLORD II will not be issued.

We reached this decision after much agonizing, but feel that it is unfair to keep both our fine contributors and our subscribers waiting for what might have been yet another year.

I have mailed out most of the art received from contributors, and most of the refunds to the subscribers...however, the Post Awful hates me, and some of it may not have arrived, or some of you may not be aware that we are now defunct (literally).

If I still owe you artwork or money, please write to me ASAP so we can get squared away. Thanks for your patience and understanding. Yours in the Force,

Nancy Stasulis
519 S. Frederick Ave. #102
Gaithersburg, MD 20877



"WHAT MAKES YOU SAY I
WAS BORN WITH A SILVER
SPOON IN MY MOUTH, HAN?"
RH85

ART CREDITS:

Yvonne Zan..... 1
Cheree Cargill..... 4
Rhonda Henderson...8, 10, 26, 39, 52

Last Minute Change of Address:

Terri Black
169 S. St. John
Pasadena, CA 91129



by Lynda Vandiver

Solution on page 27

(38) CLOUD CITY JAIL

L O V J H C O Z A T
A H O I P E E R H T
N S Y Z A I R G C O
D O S N W I I O L R
O T I E B F E B M T
K P H S M L K L C U
B C P H E B U N K R
Z A A O A O L U B E
T N R I V A D E R L
Q U T S G E C D V A

WORDS

ASSEMBLE
BAIT
BARS
BUNK
CHEWIE
FIGHT
HAN
HERO
LANDO
LEIA

LUKE
NOISE
THREEPIO
TORTURE
TRAP
VADER

From a Certain Point of View

((Editor's note: The following letter came in too late to be included in SE#8.))

Jeannie Webster
416 E. 241st Street
Woodlawn, NY 10470

I really enjoyed Jenni Henni's "The Private Life of a Jedi" and I'm eagerly looking forward to the rest of the series. Barbara Tennison's Dune article was also quite absorbing, and brought out some interesting points on the similarities between the two universes.

The male vs. female ratio is a curious problem. Thing is, that ratio only seems to exist in media fandom; in straight SF circles it seems to be at most 50/50 if not overwhelmingly male. Probably a contributing factor is the slant of the educational system until recently. From the beginning, girls were pushed away from interests in hard science and mathematics. This, of course, didn't help girls develop an interest in SF, especially in the days when it was mostly hard science, gadgetry and BEMs. In addition, it was for a long time considered junk, along the lines of the "penny dreadfuls" of the turn of the century, doubly improper for young girls to read. Also, when you look at the topics covered in media fiction, you see that they don't have a heavy emphasis toward science and technology for their own sake. Rather, the emphasis is on exploration of other cultures, relationships between characters, ethical conflicts between cultures of differing mores. In other words, people, not objects.

In reference to Debbie Gilbert's quote of Norman Spinrad's column in LOCUS, speaking as someone who was there, it sounds as if he was misinformed. True, people started lining up for the triple feature hours in advance--for one simple reason. The theater where it was being shown had a maximum seating of about 1500 people, a fraction of the con's membership. In fact, there was a sign on the theater's door to the effect that it would be completely cleared before the start of the trilogy, so that people could be admitted fairly. My assumption is that the two events were deliberately scheduled so that it would be next to impossible to attend both. Most people were probably in the same boat as the group in my room. We would have loved to attend both, but ended up with one of the party attending the Hugos, and the rest of us staking out a spot on the line, getting a full report of the Hugos after the fact. After all, the ceremony of presenting the awards isn't the important part; it's who gets them that matters. Besides, awards ceremonies in and of themselves can be downright longwinded and boring at times, and some people just dislike attending them.

That quote about "SW fans like to wait on line. They consider it part of the experience" infuriated me. Terri Black put it perfectly: "Like being told to sit at the back of the bus." Whatever halfwit

told Spinrad that, either ignorant or completely ignoring the facts of the matter, obviously prefers to cling to their bigoted views of media fans rather than attempt to find out the truth behind a given situation. That's the sort of attitude you'd expect from the type of local reporter who covers a SF con by taking pictures of all the half-naked bimbos and people wearing pointed ears and T-shirts consisting of nothing but buttons. It is not the kind of thing you'd expect from a so-called fellow SF fan.

Enough of the soapbox and back to SE. As always, Michelle Malkin's theories are very absorbing and fascinating. I wish I could come up with the variety of interesting, original and imminently plausible theories that she does.

I especially agreed with the point you made, Michelle, about the purpose of the Jedi possibly being to prevent powerful Dark Side users. That the best explanation I've seen yet of "guardians of peace and justice in the Old Republic." You also made a good point about Anakin's intent being to return to the Light Side, but not to have to live to face the accompanying guilt. Very plausible. It would be easier to let himself be killed rather than stay alive and have to deal with what he'd caused, not to mention all the readjustment involved in making himself a new life.

Frankly, though, I don't see the Alliance letting him live. Once all the fireworks are over, I can see them having some sort of War Crimes tribunal a la Nuremberg, where those deemed responsible for the Empire and what they would call its atrocities would be tried and probably be sentenced to death. As has been pointed out before, there is a lot of parallelism, whether conscious or unconscious, between the Empire and Nazi Germany. This would most likely parallel that, for the same reasons; psychological reassurance to a war-weary population that it couldn't happen again, publicising the differences between the victors and the conquered, not to mention the obvious reason of having those responsible pay for their crimes. If they had lived, Vader and the Emperor would have faced the same fate that would have faced Hitler and that did face many of his higher placed henchmen, who were executed for their part in committing war crimes and ordering atrocities, not to mention genocide.

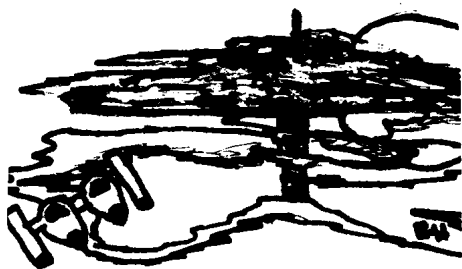
Thank you, Marlene Karkoska, for the explanation of the age difference between Luke and Leia. Once you mentioned it, it seems so obvious. Differing lengths of the planetary years on the planets each grew up on. Of course!

As for Sandra Necchi's comments on the racism angle to TOD...uh, I think we've got some crossed wires here. I wasn't trying to say (and I don't think anyone else was, either) that racism didn't exist in the 1930's. That's our whole point; it did. Not to show that it did would be a gross historical blooper. Mary Urhausen said it quite well when she said that she wouldn't have believed a "sanitized, de-racised" view of India in the 1930's. That just wasn't the way it was, folks.

Despite the fact that Lucas played fast and loose with history in both Jones movies, he does so with the details, not with the main settings themselves. Even what seem at first to be bloopers can, in some cases, with a little digging be found to have some basis in fact. Historical bloopers and inaccuracies are my pet peeve about Raiders stories. Ask Cheree about the Loc I sent her, praising the lack of same in FIELD STUDIES #1. Believe me, I'd be one of the first to start screaming bloody murder if the history of TOD didn't feel right.

Quite frankly, I never took the protests about TOD very seriously. When you think about it, every racial and nationalistic group has something in their history which can be embarrassing if shown in a movie. Makes me think of a recent interview on THE TODAY SHOW with Butterfly McQueen, who played Prissy in GONE WITH THE WIND. She mentioned the fact that when she read the script, she was offended because she hadn't realized that the characterizations were going to be so historically accurate, portraying blacks the way they actually were before and during the Civil War. This, I think is the problem of that protest group. One can sympathize with their position, but that doesn't make the Thuggees and Kali cults an any less real part of Indian history. This sort of protest is common whenever unpleasant historical facts are used, so the question really boils down to whether history should be ignored just because it is unpleasant. As to people believing that all Indians are like that today, the movie was set 50 years ago, for heaven's sake! Maybe they think Shanghai is still the gathering place for the international set, too. You have to assume that the audience has the basic intelligence to realize that the film is set in the past, not the present.

Interestingly enough, while researching Hinduism for some IJ story ideas, I was pleasantly surprised to find that the Thuggees of TOD were more than some generic cult created to be villains. In quite a few books, I found reference to some of the off-shoot cults feared and disliked by most Hindus. Among them were Kali worshippers, other cults of what is known as Tantric Hinduism, the practices of one of which is to break all the taboos (dietary and otherwise) of what might be called "orthodox" Hinduism. Most importantly, though, was the discovery of the Tantric cult who specialized in ceremonially sacrificing their victims in a manner similar to that of Mola Ram's cult as opposed to the use of the Thuggee strangling scarf (TOD really blew it on that one, though. It would have been so much more plausible if the Thuggee who tried to strangle Indy had used a ceremonial scarf instead of a piece of rope). The shit really would have hit the proverbial fan if they'd used that one, though; the victim (usually female, preferably virgin) was ceremonially gang-raped by the celebrants before being sacrificed. Pretty obvious why they combined it with a lot of generic cult components from 30's movies rather than use that one as it really existed.



Rhonda L. Henderson
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Pasco, WA 99301

May 17, 1985

Hi! As I just started into SW fandom, this is the first letter I've written to any zine, period! I've loved SW since Day 1, but didn't know about fandom at all till I read a copy of SKYWALKER 5, "The Battle of Rynan" by Maggie Nowakowska, and wrote a letter to her about how I liked her story and she wrote back and told me about fandom! (Tada!) Now I'm hooked! I'm also a contributor, having had my art and poetry accepted by several zines coming out soon. I've really enjoyed my first issue of SOUTHERN ENCLAVE (#7) and decided to write. I like your letterzine because people are basically polite and just out to have some good ol' rousing discussion, not murder with an inkpen.

Well, I really don't write well, but I did want to point out to Rose B. Arnold that Luke and Leia don't have to look alike. They are automatically fraternal twins, as opposed to identical twins, which are always 2 boys or 2 girls as they are from the same zygote, which splits in half after the egg is fertilized by the sperm; 1 egg, 1 sperm, 2 kids. Another term for "fraternal" is "dizygotic", meaning two ova. Fraternal twins can be two boys, two girls or a boy and a girl, as they are two separate eggs fertilized by two separate sperm and are simply brother and sister, even though they are carried and born at the same time.

Whoops! I just reread SE#7 and realized Pam and Barb (whichever) already wrote about twins and the different types. By the way, which of you is the anthropologist? (So, this is my first letter. I want to know all of you!)

Excuse me, I forgot who asked this question (sorry), but it goes with this topic. Yes, Luke and Leia could have had different fathers if their mother had had coitus with two men within her fertile period. It has happened here in the U.S. I forget which RN magazine I read the article in. By the way, I am an RN student.

Maggie Nowakowska: Thanks for being there when I needed a fan-friend!

On the subject of Luke's hair color, my sister has the exact same color and texture hair as Luke. During the summer, she becomes very blonde, and during the winter she goes as dark as Luke in ROTJ. As Luke is first seen on Tatooine (with 2 suns, I might add), he's very blonde. After he joins the Rebellion, he's jumping from planet to planet and Hoth certainly isn't very conducive to outdoor living! Some may say, if he was on Tatooine for the 6 months before rescuing Han, he should be blonde again. But we don't really know where he was. He could've been with the Rebellion and co-ordinating Han's rescue from wherever they were. Anyway, that's why I didn't think that much about Luke's hair color change; it just seemed logical to me! (No, I'm not Vulcan...too bad). But, Maggie, your idea is fun, anyway!

Another P. S. to Maggie--I didn't need to read your profile, Dragon; I already know most of it! And I like it all. So there!

By the way, I've noticed that "so there" is a favored way of ending many of these serious, adult discussions y'all have (I was born of two Southern-ers) but y'all do it wrong! You must end "so there" with a long, sloppy raspberry! So there--phsssst!!

Cheree: Loved the pictures, love your letter-

zine and, to answer your question about THE EWOK ADVENTURE, I watched it because it was part of SW, but once is enough, thank you! I enjoy my male heroes old enough to ogle! (I'm no pedophile!)

Terri Black: I live in Pasco, WA. I just got hooked on DR. WHO, too, and I also dream of going to my first con! Now, don't we sound pathetic to all you old con-goers out there? (sob) I agree with your thought that the Emperor bred his own destruction in Vader. You can subdue a lion with a whip and a chair, but when that lion sees one little break in your concentration, he'll kill you. The Emperor thought Anakin Skywalker was dead, but he was only caged.

Mary Keever: The first four times I watched ROTJ, I missed most of the dialogue during the climactic saber duel, 'cause I was too busy admiring Master Luke's derrier! Especially in tight black! Yum!! I would love to take a ride with all your SW figures in the car. To date, my bedroom (I live with my parents at this time) has six SW posters, one SW display hanging mobile, four SW glassees on desk, twenty various SW books in bookcase (my zine collection is piling up the walls and I just started it last October!), SW pencils, pens, erasers...need I go on?

Tim Blaes: It's my Darth Vader posters (four) that keep my mundane father out of my room! I think the Falcon would sound like Katharine Hepburn in ON GOLDEN POND. Intelligent, full of humor, and saying, "I'm not getting older, I'm getting better!" To tell you the truth, Tim, I don't like most men either (that's why I'm divorced and single), but I'd like to meet you. You sound intelligent and with a decent sense of humor. I also liked Maltz in ST:SFS. He was nice for a Klingon. He actually had an intelligent thought or two. Everyone in my family (except my nine-year-old son, who thinks it's neat his mom loves SF as much as he does!) believes anything but LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE is straight from Hell. I asked my father why he thought God would only make one planet in all the systems in this one galaxy alone inhabited and why would only we interest Him? His answer was, "We're the only ones in The Book" (Bible).

I answered, "If you wrote a letter to fish, would you spend all your time trying to describe zebras?" We haven't talked much since. My favorite ST episode (one, anyway) is also "The Devil in the Dark", for that reason, it tries to get us to think about differences as something to explore, not condemn.

Carole Regine: Liked your comments on Admiral Ackbar! I felt the same about his reactions. Also, I have been an active fan of ST zines since 1979, I have all of KRAITH to date. Yes, they show Kirk as having to adapt to Vulcan ways to try to bridge the gap between humans and the non-human races. But the last part is beginning to have more on Spock now needing to learn the human side also. I'll admit it's overly heavy on the first angle, but then so much of ST is heavy on trying to make Spock (and Saavik and various other Vulcans) human. To coin a phrase, "There are always possibilities," and I like reading about all of them.

Chris Callahan: Definitely agree with your statements on the difference between tolerance and acceptance. They are different! I tolerate Jerry Falwell, but I don't accept his ideas! I believe in the freedom to state ideas, but not the freedom to shove them down others' throats! While I'm on this, I'll bring up those involved in the Luke/Han war (debate?). I love reading all story ideas,

whether I personally see my Luke or Han that way or not! What's so bad about a Dark Luke, or a Jedi Han, or vice versa, or something totally different than that? It's fun to spout our ideas, but what's fun about massacring each other? There's enough of that going on with all our mundane skeptics in our lives. Besides, here's one for all you Freuds out there; I've always been in love with Darth Vader, even before he was Luke's daddy/Anakin/now Light Side again/so on. Wow, do I dig black capes!

Chris, DUNE nearly made me gag! I've adored the DUNE world since I was thirteen, and I just couldn't believe the plot slaughter, character slaughter, and slaughter for slaughter's sake of the Harkonens (whom I didn't even recognize). That's my opinion. I've read a few LoCs that loved it. Their privilege.

Marcia Brin: C3PO's a droid. Why would his owner have to explain a job to him? What he knows is programmed into him in the first place. Do you see C3PO as an android, such as Flint's Reyna in ST's "Requiem for Methuselah"? If so, I see where you get your viewpoint, even though I don't see him that way. Also, where does everyone get the 20,000 year figure for the Jedi Brotherhood? I thought 40 years was a generation, so if the Jedi were the guardians of peace for 1000 generations, wouldn't it be 40,000 years? I must be wrong. I'm no geneticist.

I'm still confused about the Luke/Han thing. Marcia, do you believe all the "Luke fans" are saying you should stop writing your stories? I hope not; I've really enjoyed them. I've read several. Are you telling the "Luke fans" to stop writing their stories? I hope not. I like theirs, too! Also, where can I get the Lucas and Marquand comments you quoted? I've missed all of this! (Aarrgh!) But, why does ROTJ have to be moral, anyway? I certainly hope no one reads my works (that will start appearing soon) with the idea I'll stick to one viewpoint with each character. I like to explore them all. The only one I wouldn't give up for anyone is that Vader is sexy! And, yes, I treat all of it as a game, 'cause I enjoy fun! I'm in fandom for fun! As for Luke's asking for help, well, maybe he "saw" Leia in the Falcon and knew she could save him. Maybe he was just crying out to the one person he felt was left that could; Ben wouldn't or couldn't help, Han was frozen, and he'd just lost the father image he'd grown up adoring. He thought he was going to die and Leia was all he had left to touch before the end (my viewpoint only). And I always saw Luke's cries to HIS FATHER as just that. Even after it all, he still could see in Vader his father, someone who could help him, and I believe that was when Vader could see that man in himself. Also, Luke didn't know Vader would die and did all he could (coming close to giving his life in the attempt) to get him to help in time for Vader to live. I think Han didn't cry for help for a good reason--in the torture scene, there wasn't anyone who'd answer. And it was easy to see that if he asked Chewie to save him in the carbon chamber, Chewie would be killed.

Elsie Bartok: The Imperial fighter pilots are spasmodic and stormtroopers are all pathetic shots, too!

Ann Wortham: I like antennae! But when you follow Cheree's advice to suck rocks, don't suck my pet rock! And I need lip quiver lessons; how much do you charge? ((Ed's note: I think lip quivering is Jenni Henni's field of expertise!))

Melody Corbett: To answer your question, "Why

did we end up with the particular product we got?", here's my deep, thought-provoking answer: I ain't got the foggiest! How's that?

Jean Stevenson: Yes, Lancelot--Hahn-S'low is silly, but I love it! I'm really into King Arthur; I've read all you mentioned. Have you read Mary Stewart's Merlin Trilogy and THE WICKED DAY? I think that Luke's reactions to the deaths he has to go through is natural. When a death is sudden, you have no time to prepare, you simply cry, "No!" I have reacted that way. If you know it's coming, you can work into acceptance, but to just suddenly lose someone in a matter of hours with no preparation, it's often just too much to absorb.

I think your idea of how Anakin turned is very good, and I am a Vader fan! I don't need my heroes to be perfect. They're much more interesting flawed. Liked your comments on "leashed with love"; very perceptive.

B. J. Evans: I also wonder how Yoda's "You fail because you do not believe" could work in with unconscious Force-users. Frankly, Yoda comes across to me as an irascible old goat! I wouldn't want to do a thing he told me to! (I'm a rebellious person.)

This is probably too long. I don't have a type-writer at this time and I've got no idea how long this will be! I enjoyed the articles, and those I didn't write something to, I enjoyed your letters, too; I just was afraid this would turn out to be six pages long! I love joining in; looking forward to #9!

A SCINTILLATING ISSUE

Lin S. Ward
1703 Heritage Hill Drive
Richmond, VA 23233

June 18, 1985

Thanks for another scintillating issue of SE! Also thanks for the generous section of MediaWestCon photos--they came out beautifully!

Thank you, Annie Wortham, for the report on HARRIGAN 'N HART (you mean I sat right next to a person who'd seen Mark Hamill in person, and never even asked you about it?). I wonder if he was in such a bad mood because he'd just learned about the show closing?

Mary Keever: About Luke's legs--how 'bout that scene where he's shimmying up the side of the sail- barge? Hubba, hubba!

Re: The SW triple bill, I'm glad to hear it was a sellout; maybe they'll do it again with wider distribution (soon, please make it soon!). When I saw ROTJ at its rerelease in March, several thoughts came to mind that were new to me: (1) the question of Luke and Leia's apparent abdication from leadership responsibility in ROTJ. In ANH, Leia awards the medals to Our Heroes, and in TESB she seems to be consulted on all major decisions in the command

center. She seems to be a central figure in the hierarchy. However, I only saw humanoid rebels in these films. In ROTJ, I saw at least two, maybe three, types of non-humanoid rebels. Could it be possible that Leia was only leading a splinter of the Alliance, i.e., the most active guerilla group, or the group representing the Alderaan system, or something? I know that before the Death Star blew, Vader and Tarkin talk about crushing the Rebellion, but maybe they were unaware of the vast network of economic and espionage supporters of the Rebellion spread across the galaxy. Or, perhaps there were significant neutral groups who were waiting to see the results of Senate action. Perhaps by the time Leia's group of rebels were evacuating Hoth, the neutral groups and/or underground financial and espionage supporters across the galaxy had heard about the dissolution of the Senate, and organized by Mon Mothma, decided to join together against the Empire. The original cell of rebels, led by Leia, would have consolidated with the large group of conservatives who were now ready to fight. They'd be gathering "at the rendezvous" toward the end of TESB. I know from experience that when organizations consolidate, there are lots of cuts in management staff. Perhaps at this point, Luke and Leia felt, on the one hand, superfluous in their leadership roles with the Alliance, and on the other hand, desperately needed in the mission to free Han. So, perhaps they felt it would be appropriate to resign their active commissions to take a leave of absence to hit Jabba's palace. Then, when they returned to the Alliance, they were still free agents, and could volunteer to join General Solo's mission.

(2) Why did Ben, instead of Yoda, train Vader? Was it traditional for Jedi to take "apprentices", or have proteges? Was Yoda unavailable and, if so, why? Was Yoda only assigned special students? If so, were they specially promising, unpromising, or just "rush cases"? This is becoming a Major Issue in my mind.

(3) Several issues ago, people were speculating on the extent of Luke's training. I noticed in this viewing of ROTJ, that when Luke first meets Vader, Vader says, "So, you have constructed a new lightsaber. Your skills are now complete. You are indeed powerful..." (Maybe this was previously noted, if so, forgive!).

(4) I wonder if Vader ever realized who Luke's sister is? He only refers to her as "your sister". If he did not know it was Leia, I wonder what he'd have done if Luke had died, and he and the Emperor had gone looking for The Other. How would they have searched? Force-vibes hadn't revealed her up until then; only Luke's feelings had revealed her existence.

Cheree: Your suggestion that Yoda's race might have been the original Jedi is really intriguing! If Yoda had been "passing on what he has learned" for 800 years (out of 20,000), then humans would've been Jedi for a relatively short period. Maybe teaching methods hadn't been perfected, and that's why they suffered a failure with Vader; or is there some deficiency that caused the Jedi to suffer expurgation twice; or is this just "the way of the Force"? ((Ed's note: A thousand generations is an awful long time. I find it hard to believe that in all that time only one Jedi fell to the Darkside. Perhaps there have been several such incidents in the past, but in this one there was the figure of the Emperor to influence the fall even more. Or perhaps there have always been Darkside Jedi, work-

ing in balance with the Lightside, but it was the Emperor who pulled this particular Darkside Jedi out of balance and threw the entire Force into chaos as a result.))

Marlene Karkoska: I completely agree with you that withholding from Luke the truth about his father was a dangerous mistake for Yoda and Ben. On those occasions when I've had to choose whether to tell someone something now or later, and I've waited until later, I've always been SORRY. Dramatically, though, this makes Luke's flirtation with the Dark Side more suspenseful. It also gives some texture and depth to the characters: Yoda and Ben are not infallible, and Luke's choice is not easy. This must've been one of those times when Yoda was saying, "always in motion is the future", else why couldn't he sense the turbulence the lie would cause? It doesn't seem that he set Luke up for a Fall deliberately, because he said it was "unfortunate" that Luke had found out about Vader before he'd finished his training.

Another SW film for '87? Would that it were so! Someone (I'd credit her if I could remember who it was!) at MediaWestCon theorized that Lucas is just waiting for computer graphics to develop to his needs, so he can make the films he wants at a budget that isn't out of this galaxy. Maybe the new microchip will be the key.

Michelle Malkin: Your questions about clones are most interesting! Sounds as if it all depends on you POV, and kind of leads right into a rebellion we know more about, doesn't it? Looking forward to your story in PERFECT FUSION--it does, indeed, make sense that people who don't know Luke would fear his power and his heritage. It's quite likely that public opinion turned against the Jedi at the time of the Purge, with a little help from Imperial propaganda, added to the danger of association with "those crazy old wizards". I infer, for example, that there is no prevailing admiration for religious leaders in the Soviet Union. Even if a religious leader succeeded in eradicating a great menace (perhaps negotiating peace between the Super Powers, let's say), I doubt we'd see a resurgence of religion, or positive beliefs about religion in the Soviet Union. As if Luke won't have enough trouble raising the Phoenix from the ashes.

Sally Smith: About the ROTJ radio show, I recently bought tapes from Starstone of the ANH and TESB radio shows (which are terrific--OK, so Perry King sounds like a fugitive from SPANKY AND OUR GANG, everyone else did an excellent job, and the longer length of the radio shows vs. movies was a big plus!). I also received a program on "The Making of" the radio shows. They interviewed one guy who explained that a typical day's work was to mix the music, voices, and effects for a 1-1/2 minute scene. No wonder NPR can't afford it! Surely wish Lucas would finance it (I'm not holding my breath, tho).

Barbara Tennison: I agree that Palpatine's taunting of Luke was conspicuously lackwitted. Your suggestion was very satisfying. I wonder if they were trying to indicate that the old jerk had passed his prime, and was so evil-ridden that he was beyond clever manipulation, which also might have been why Vader felt it was time to make his move, with his son at his side, and take over the Empire. I liked your reasoning about why Vader may have been the only fallen Jedi; and that the Jedi's being "incorruptible" would account for their being killed off. The utopian in me likes the idea of incorruptible Jedi!

Tim Blaes: Very interesting ideas about Bail being a Jedi, and his partial training of Leia. It's a lot easier to picture her as a brilliant 16-year-old Senator because of her use of the Force, than because she was just precocious. Her grief for Alderaan could be a crippling Achilles heel. I hope they keep her busy organizing new worlds, instead of dwelling on the old one. Lauren Bacall is perfect for the Falcon! I read somewhere that Ford is being touted as the new Bogie--funny you should bring up Bacall...

Re: "Wormie"--to everyone who discussed the parallel between King Arthur and Wart, and Luke and Wormie--I surely like your explanation a lot better than mine! In my ignorance, I had no idea that SW had allusions to Arthurian legend, but now that it's pointed out (special thanks to Jean Stevenson), it's all quite clear, not to mention fun! Yes, I can picture Luke pulling the sword from the stone. Say, didn't I read a cross-universe story about that once?

Final question to everyone: A recent Business Week article postulated that personal robots will be commonplace by 2000. If you had a personal robot, what would you have it do for you? For starters, mine would type LoCs while I dictated! See you next time!

IDEA-SPAWNING

Sally Syrjala
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Centerville, MA 02632

June 18, 1985

The arrival of a zine as filled with ideas and idea-spawning material as is SOUTHERN ENCLAVE is always a welcome addition to the mail.

The main problem, as usual, seems to be where to start and how to organize some of the random thoughts into a mode suitable for transmission to other minds.

Jean Stevenson's letter had a lot of interesting permutations on names and their meanings. "Force" is a fascinating topic on which to dwell. One meaning to consider would be as the word applies to physics--"any action between two bodies which changes, or tends to change, their relative condition as to rest or motion or as to any physical interrelation."

It can also be considered as the force of gravity. Something that has a pull or attraction. This could mean that nature is the one which exerts the pull and that a conscious effort on the part of a living being is needed to channel the energy from that natural state of being. It is an intriguing idea upon which to puzzle.

Then the subject of "Wormie." The whys and wherefors of things make for very interesting unravellings. In fact, I like to look at the SW saga as a mystery which is there just waiting for us to solve the "whodunit".

One of the definitions I have come across in reference to "worm" is in reference to something which "inwardly torments in a gnawing way suggestive of the worm." Using that as a basis for specula-

tion, you could say that the term might be the inner turmoil going on within Luke--how the forces that be are slowly eating him away. Maybe this is the greatest struggle he will have to face--his own inner battle of selves. Perhaps, too, the only way to win that battle is to accept both sides--as was suggested in Maggie Nowakowska's letter about the ST episode "The Enemy Within."

Then you could take the speculation as to the naming of Luke to equate with the biblical saint of the same name. In this way of seeing, he could be looked to as an evangelist, one who spreads the word. An interesting aspect of this is that Saint Luke was a companion of Saint Paul. Saint Paul, of course, being known for his justification by faith beliefs. "I don't believe it." -- "That is why you fail."

It was also interesting that Jean brought up the quote of Goethe. If you consider Han to be a name alike Hand, you could say that he has travelled from one side of the galaxy to the other and in this way seen the heart of the matter. Now it is up to the hand to lay the problem bare.

All this leads me to think of 4H and the fact that all things should be brought into the equation --head, heart, hand = health. Hand being the skill, the ability needed to effect the situation. The bringing together of the trio in a united effort being what is needed to bring about the health of the organism.

Pat Nussman brings up a like idea on Jedi selection in that it might take someone already of the clique to bring another into the group.

Too, the Jedi could easily be the channel through which the flow of the Force travel. It could also be that how the Jedi view the Force affects the type of current which runs through them.

I liked your idea triggered by Lin Ward's letter that Yoda might be the last of his race. In looking at this, could he not be as the Elven race in Tolkien's work? He might be the link between belief systems of differing races. Again, an interesting thought upon which to ponder.

Marlene D. Karkoska is correct in assuming that I think ALL sides should be considered in the new government. When we try to ignore one side as being "unworthy" or not up to our concept of "worthiness", we only widen the schism between the two sides until eventually a major clash will come to be. This is not to assume that all will be or should be done in accordance with every desire expressed; however, every side should be considered. This shows a respect for people and this consideration is the mark of a true democracy. ALL the people need to have a voice in matters. Was it not George Washington who said, "If men are to be precluded from offering their opinion on a matter which may have the gravest of consequences, then freedom of speech is of no use to us. It may be taken away and we may be led like sheep to the slaughter." No government can consider itself above any of its people or else those people will eventually form a unit of rebellion which may banish that government forever.

Michelle Malkin: Ah, the last name. Well, the full abbreviated last name would be Wiinikainen-Syrjala. However, as that is usually too much for most people to say or spell, I stick with only the married version of the surname. "Sir Ella" is as close to an easy way to listing a pronunciation as any. It is of Finnish origin. No, I had not heard of the incident to which you refer and can only be saddened by such a thing.

Cindy Rodriguez mentions SF fandom as being

male dominated. This would well be the case until a few years ago. The current male/female ratio is of a more equal basis now. SF zines tend to be mostly letterzines and newszines with articles and letters filling their pages. Fiction rarely makes an appearance in such zines.

Maybe it is the perception of the fiction issue that might be some of the basis of the "division" of the fandoms. I have noticed most SF fen look to fiction as being something which could be marketed. If it were printed in a zine, it would be done so instead of having it available for the professional market. Too, I have heard it said that media fen use the universe of others and are not creative enough to invent their own. Well. The same could be said of SF fen who inhabit the universes of books which others have created. Then there is the charge made of "illiteracy" against media fen. I have pointed out in the media/SF "debate" in Marty and Robbie Cantor's *HOLIER THAN THOU* how media fen are the most creative and "literate" folk I have had the good fortune to meet. It is usually pointed out at this time that a few "token" media fen have crossed over to exist in both fandoms. Bev Clark and Barbara Tennison being two within these pages who are represented in the SF letter columns as well as the media zines. In SE#8, I also notice Lin Ward has a letter. Lin is a new member of N3F so can be considered to be in SF fandom as well as media fandom.

Perhaps it is a case of fearing the new kid on the block might change things which because they are as they are, they must always be so. Media fen have their own ideas of what fandom is and what they expect to obtain from it. As in the discussion within these pages, how nice it would be if the two sides could simply agree to accept each other with their differences and learn to grow from those differences instead of being torn apart because of them.

Chris Callahan: Indeed, you have said much of what I said. The ideas need to be listened to, respected. In that manner, they are cherished. They may not be acted upon, but they are considered as being apart of the whole. They are not denied existence. If an idea teaches tolerance of difference, it has to recognize that tolerance and accept/respect all tenets. This is not to say you have to agree with them, just accept that a certain person feels a certain way. Then you can try to find out why and then you can try to meet on a common ground which will be sensitive to the needs of all. This is not easy. It is probably the hardest of all things there are, yet unless it is done, seeds of discontent are sown. Those seeds would yield a crop of misery for all. Far better to acknowledge the differing way while it still can be encompassed into the whole instead of letting it mutate to the point where amputation is the only course left. If the Empire had considered the concerns of those who formed the Rebellion, could not all the death and pain which resulted in its casting off have been averted? It is easier to heal a scratch than to try to deal with the sympathetic pains which a stump generates.

The hour grows early and the thought patterns are starting to disassemble, so for now...PEACE.



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June 22, 1985

This LoC will get in before the deadline even if it means doing something that that I never do and that is not procrastinating. If I don't do it now it will never get done.

My first question is to Cheree. Do you print all of the letters that you receive or do you pick certain ones to publish? I have read all the back issues from #3 to #7 and I don't recall it ever having been mentioned. ((Ed's note: I print all the LoCs I receive, usually exactly in the form they come in, though I do occasionally edit letters a bit.))

Since I am dealing with the esteemed Editor, I would like to put in my two cents regarding the issue of her placing a comment about three ladies who did not get a letter into issue #7. This was my first issue of SE and I thought how great a group of individuals this must be and how considerate of the editor to take the time and space to inform everyone that three "regulars" would not be in that issue. I personally would have been quite complimented by this, to have been singled out and mentioned. But being new to SW fandom I may not be up on all of the etiquette of letterzines. Speaking of etiquette, when I write to someone about a comment I appreciated in a letter, or an article that brought me new insight, or a story that really moved me, is it too much to expect a simple acknowledgement? Just wondering.

On to my comments:

Lin Ward: In TESB Ben tells Luke to go to Dagobah to learn from the Jedi Master who taught him. Also, when Yoda dies he tells Luke that when he is gone, Luke will be the last of the Jedi. I think this clearly establishes the fact that Yoda is a Jedi. Also I loved Cheree's idea of Yoda being the last of his race and that the circle would be complete when he told Luke to pass on what he had learned.

Lin, I also enjoyed your many interesting thoughts about the reasons for the use of "Wormie" as Luke's nickname. My own thoughts were that it was just another inside joke--a reference to the worms of Dune. Similarly I think that Luke's comment about not being able to see out of the Stormtrooper helmet is an inside joke because so many of the actors who were in the Stormtrooper costumes complained that they could not see anything. A lot more mundane than your ideas, but interesting.

Marlene Karkoska: If you are in the minority by thinking that asking your Apple for permission to use it is silly then I am in the minority with you. We all love R2 and 3PO, but they are just machines and were created to serve man. I would certainly sacrifice my Commodore for my friend. I agree with you that robots cannot and never should be equal to humans. We might end up with a Butlerian Jihad.

I was so glad to read your comments about liking Han less because of all the negative comments about Luke. I originally was a Han fan, but after ROTJ I became more and more enamored with Luke. Then I really started to take an even closer look at Luke to see if all this anti-Luke commentary had any merit. Some of it is quite true, and a great deal of it doesn't hold water (in my opinion). For me the faults that Luke has just make him more real

and shows that even a great hero has feet of clay. And so does Han, and I have always considered him to be a hero but in a different way. Speaking of Han, I would like to briefly address the issue of the "I know" statement in TESB. My first gut reaction when I heard this was how typically male. Then after some serious thinking about it recently, it came to me that Han could actually be trying to save Leia from the pain of knowing that he truly loved her since he did not know if he would survive the next few minutes. Han was acknowledging the bond between them. It would be much easier for Leia to hear those words than "I love you." It was much better for her to hear the words "I know" rather than the trite "Me, too."

Back to the Editor: Cheree, you asked about the woman/character vs. man/adventure idea and stated that you had become more of a Han fan through fan fiction. That is how I am getting back to caring about Han. In many of the stories in zines I have read Han's shell is really peeled away and the true gentle and caring man is revealed. I enjoy the stories that show how Han tries to keep his guard up but his good natured and honorable self keeps coming out.

As far as fantasy fulfillment, you hit it right on the "Mark" (excuse the pun). I don't have a corner of my bedroom devoted to photos of Luke/Mark, Han/Harrison, Tom Selleck, and a few assorted Chicago Bears for no reason at all. It's not the only reason I happen to love the character of Luke, but they (fantasies) do come in handy when one has been divorced for three years! I could go on but I am afraid I might jeopardize your PG rating.

Terri Black: I think DV knew Luke had made the lightsaber because of the "vibes" that it gave off. He could have sensed Luke's aura in the sabre. I'm sure that construction of a Jedi's own personal lightsabre must have been somehow involved in the final test to become a Jedi Knight. It must have been an extension of the Jedi's own personality and make-up. Speaking of sabers, did anyone ever comment on the fact that Vader's sabre is white after he has killed Ben? It was probably just a foul up by special effects.

Marcia Brin: Why is it that I always feel I could write an entire LoC to you alone? Guess you just challenge me to really look at my ideas and think them through as to why I feel as I do and what reasons I can find to support them.

First of all, I agree with you on Jeanine's fiction; it is the best I have read so far. I could not stop reading "Seeds of Destruction: Renaissance." [FAR REALMS #7]

Now to a few points on which I disagree with you. You have made many statements regarding Luke's treatment of 3PO. My own feelings are that Luke cared very much about his droids. In ANH when they enter the canteen and R2 and C3PO are ordered out, Luke very sympathetically tells 3PO that it would be better if he waited outside and the reassuringly pats him on the shoulder. In the novelization it even stated that Luke realizes that this was no place to make a stand for droid rights. Then after the Death Star is destroyed it is Luke who shows the concern for R2's condition and reassures 3PO that R2 will be alright. In TESB Luke is concerned for R2's safety in the swamp and it is not only because Luke needs R2 to aid in the flying of the X-wing, because it is made clear in ANH that an X-wing does not need an R2 unit to fly since Luke was able to destroy the Death Star without R2 and get back to base.

In regards to Luke's supposed mistreatment of R2 and 3PO in ROTJ by withholding information from him and sending them into Jabba's lair, I think that the main argument against this idea is what I stated before--I would gladly sacrifice my Commodore for my best friend. R2 and C3PO are machines and not "people." At least not the way I interpret people, as being human beings, or organic beings in galactic terms. Someone has made the point that the more rebels that become involved in the rescue attempt the more expendable 3PO becomes.

You stated that you have not met a Luke fan who still likes George Lucas. Well, then, I can be your first. I am a Luke fan and a most adamant George Lucas fan. I admire GL for what he has done, taking his dream and making it become a reality. He is someone who has worked through the system to get what he wants and now can turn around and thumb his nose at the industry if he wants to. I admire his courage and as an extension of that I admire Luke's courage and his gung-ho attitude towards the world. I think if you really look you will be able to find lots of Luke fans who like GL. How can you not like the creator of your favorite character? I welcome your LoCs and certainly wouldn't use any means to get you to stop writing them. There are many sides and points of view to all issues and everyone has a right to her (or his--in deference to Tim) opinion. As Voltaire said, "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Just as you have your right to see Han in your way, I have my right to see Han in my way. The same applies to Luke.

I personally like the way I see Han (of course, I do--otherwise I'd see him differently). I admire Han's raw courage and ability to get through that asteroid field by his own innate ability. It took someone with a great deal of talent and expertise to do that. I personally don't need, nor do I want my Han to have Force-sense, Han has great Horse-sense. He has made his way in the galaxy by scraping tooth and nail to become the person he is. I admire anyone who can come from such a background as Han did and rise above his circumstances. (Oh, dear, I am beginning to sound like a real Han fan.)

One more point I'd like to make about Han is that he is the modern man in the story. He is the person that we can identify as coming from our own times. He does get along without magic and is very successful without it. Luke is a mystical hero and therefore can use the "magic", though I think it is a very believable magic. It is a matter of Luke and Han being different, not one better or worse than the other. Even GL has stated that he wanted Han to be the cynical counterpoint to Luke's innocence.

Marcia, I believe you may have taken Mickey's challenge all wrong. As a third party I went back and looked at Mickey's request. I don't believe she was asking you to do an article in defense of Luke but, as I would like to request of you, can you give us alternative actions to your judged misactions by Luke? I don't want you to defend Luke; I want you to merely state your views on how Luke "should" have acted in the situations that you are critical of him. It is very easy for me to see Luke's motivation in many of his decisions, so opposite views are always welcome. In this way I may either solidify my beliefs or perhaps change or adjust my views of the incident. I believe that if it were kept on a factual vs opinion basis, it could lead to a most interesting debate and exchange of ideas. (I better clear up that factual vs opinion

idea. What I mean is, we state a fact such as Luke left Dagobah before his training was completed; that is a fact. Briefly, my opinion is that he acted out of a sense of responsibility and loyalty to his friends to end their pain. Now, what I would ask you and other critics of Luke to state is your alternative actions and what consequences would have resulted from those actions. It is very easy to simply state "Luke should have stayed," but it takes time and effort to counter with an alternative action.)

Mickey Malkin: I hope you don't mind my taking up your cause but I remember when I read your idea in a past issue I was very intrigued by it.

Elsie Bartok: I don't know if this point has been brought up regarding Han/Luke's screaming but I thought it might be a new view. When Han was being tortured, it was just that--torture--and not a threat to Han's life. Luke was being executed, a definite threat to his life. Han had no one to cry out to for help. Luke had someone to cry out to for help. Luke certainly had no way of knowing that asking (begging, if you will) for help would mean his father would have to sacrifice himself for Luke.

You ask "What game?" has Han been playing? I believe Han's game is the one of the big tough guy with the heart of gold. Han has drastically changed and for the better. He no longer needs to play the game of the cool sarcastic mercenary who is afraid to open up and show his true feelings. Sure he is flip with Lando about the mission; it can't be easy for Han to give up all his old ways, and who'd want him to, anyway? I do believe I am sounding more like a Han fan all the time. But it is the little bit of a Scoundrel that makes Han so much more endearing.

One point of fact I have to quibble with you about and that is that I do not see Luke saying "Thank you" to Han at the end of ROTJ. Luke and Han have a very deep friendship and no words are necessary at that point. They have a way of communicating without the need for words (and I do not mean through the Force.) You stated that there is nothing in the movies to show that a commander outranks a general. What do you make of the statement "Evading the dreaded Imperial Starfleet, a group of freedom fighters led by Luke Skywalker has established a new secret base on the remote ice world of Hoth." My own interpretation of this statement and the role Luke plays in the rebellion is that as a Jedi he is a separate entity from the military force of the Rebellion. That makes the most sense to me of any explanation I have read so far.

Pat Nussman: I was intrigued by your statement about Luke not showing any force sensitivity before he met Ben. We see so little of Luke before that meeting that I don't see where he would have had time to show his force-sensitive nature. I have a fantasy of Luke as a child levitating stones and his uncle catching him at it and making him feel strange and ashamed for what he has done.

Jean Stevenson: Your comment about Luke's over-the-shoulder glance at Han when he calls Jabba "worm-ridden" was great. It is one of the things I love about letterzines; they give me so many new points of view and interpretations. This is a scene I will look at with a fresh viewpoint the next time I view it.

A few last comments and then I will wrap it up, though I have only touched on half of what I had hoped to cover.

I am looking for people interested in private correspondence. I already have one person to write

to who is a Han fan (she has said that she thinks a lot of you would be amazed that a Han fan and a Luke fan can correspond amicably, but we do). I would enjoy hearing from anyone who would care to write.

My son (10 years old) asked me to put this in my LoC. We had been discussing the ideas in the Loc's about the color scheme and the sabre colors. After watching the trilogy, he pointed out to me that the Imps' laser blasts from their ships were green and those from the rebels were red. Now, how does that fit in with the color scheme?

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the letter writers, authors, and artists for giving me a wonderful world of SW fandom into which I have been able to immerse myself.

If you have made it this far through my letter, I thank you. It can be a little intimidating going up against some BNFs for the first time.

Go with the Force.

NOT A CLONE

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Oh, irretrievable incognito mine... Well, perhaps your photograph (in SE#8) will finally put paid to the rumor that I'm actually a clone of Annie Wortham. A "clone" is an exact genetic duplicate. Please note that, in addition to graceful antennae, intricate and beautiful gills adorn my enigmatic visage. (Whether or not my home-grown ornamentation represents an evolutionary advance is an issue which Annie and I have not yet begun to debate properly. The fact of the matter is, she's jealous.) Clearly, "clones" is not the appropriate term to apply to this relationship.

Oh--before I further compound my sins of omission, I must tender my thanks to all who said nice things about the article I wrote, 'way back when, on the subject of "droid torture". Thanks! My particular appreciation is extended to the several people who contributed additional insights; the learning process is synergetic. Beaucoup gracias, one and all.

A short comment (I hope) on the last issue... That issue (#8) maintained the pleasant, generally low-key tone of its predecessor, with only a few exceptions. Perhaps the general atmosphere of tranquillity explains why I was more distressed than usual by the occasional shrill outbursts.

I am not criticizing Cheree for printing such letters when she receives them. Nor do I wish to advocate some sort of "censorship". It is certainly the right of all fan (as of all people everywhere) to talk about what interests them, at a length which pleases them. But that means that I get a say, too. And speaking as a conscientious non-combatant, I was rather annoyed by several letters in SE#8, in which the gladiators persisted in applying the

terms of their own discussion to the rest of SW fandom in general. I speak only for myself in this matter, but the fact is, I would prefer to be included out of the Luke/Han debate. I don't object to the subject matter of the discussion. I do object to the use of sloppy rhetoric which relentlessly, and in at least one case, inaccurately, includes unconsenting bystanders in the fray. The fact that I have chosen not to parade my own opinions on the topic in public does not mean either that (a) I have none, or (b) that the opinions I do maintain fall neatly into someone else's pre-determined categories. I consider myself to be a "SWars" fan, rather than a fan of Luke, Han, or the Empire (for example) exclusively. Please don't trouble yourselves to speak on my behalf! Argue the niceties of your chosen arguments to the limits of your hearts' content, but please--be aware that the generalities of whom you speak so freely may well be irked at the liberties you take. Particularly when the tone of your comments becomes rather upsetting to at least one of the bystanders involved. Specificks make for a much more devastating argument than sweeping generalities, anyway: let the "everybodies" look after their own concerns. Thank you!

I'd like to launch two tangential notions into the forum, on the subject of Luke's loss of his hand, in TESB. The first notion is drawn from Greco-Roman myth. In order to enter the land of the dead (presumably on some worthy quest), a living voyager had to pacify the guardian of the gate (the three-headed doggy-like critter named "Cerberus") with a donation--voluntary or otherwise. The journey into the netherworld was a feat of tremendous daring, not (to the best of my recollection) undertaken for the personal aggrandizement of the hero; the hero who successfully completed the voyage generally emerged considerably wiser (occasionally, richer)--though not necessarily completely happy. (For reference, one can turn to the adventures of Orpheus, Theseus, and Hercules, to name a few.) If Luke's hand represents a "sop to Cerberus" (Darth Vader is no dog, but he might stand very nicely as the keeper of the gates of "hell"), what (knowledge) does he gain as a result of his journey?

The second notion is drawn from Norse mythology. An otherwise minor god, Tyr, lost one of his hands in an act of courage which (temporarily) guaranteed all the gods' safety from one particular source of great danger. The basic story is that the gods had grown increasingly afraid of the strength of the wolf Fenrir (or Fenris, depending on your translation), but had been unable to bind him. At last they procured a chain which they thought would do the trick; but, seeing their new confidence, Fenrir became suspicious. He refused to allow them to approach him with the new chain. At last, the wolf agreed to a bargain (a "dare" is more like it): he would permit the gods to try the new chain on him, if one of the gods would consent to place his hand between the wolf's jaws, as a "token of good faith". Tyr alone volunteered for this duty. The chain held, and the gods would not remove it; so when "dare" time came, Fenrir angrily bit off Tyr's hand. The terms of the original "agreement" do not imply that Tyr expected to lose his limb. In other words, Tyr paid the price for the gods' safety, but not out of a perverse inclination toward martyrdom: he was the sole volunteer--and the price he paid was not what he'd expected. Nor was the "safety" thus purchased permanent... An interesting sidelight on the issue (though I'm not sure how far parallels may be drawn) is that Fenrir (Darth Vader) was one of Loki's var-

ious offspring; and Loki was a complex figure who both supported and opposed the gods, at different times.

Onward...Marlene Karkoska: I agree very much with the basic premise put forth (among other fine ideas) in your letter in SE#8, that the interests of "Imperials" must be considered (and their rights preserved) under the new regime, whatever it may be. But I found myself struggling with the definition of "Imperials", a little. I agree that J. Random Citizen in the street must be protected. I can extend the principle as far as J. Random Infantryman, or his equivalent. (I'm not as sure about "stormtroopers," but the movies did not indicate whether a Terra-like distinction between "regular" and "special" troops exists in the Empire.) But what about the higher-up folks, like our dearly-deceased Grand Moff Tarkin? (*SIGH* What a beautiful villain.) Surely someone like that qualifies as a war criminal? The problem of "how much representation/protection?" is compounded by the fact that the more important the "former Imperial", the more powerful he is likely to have been--and formerly powerful men are particularly dangerous (especially to those who are responsible for the "formerly"). It is to be hoped that the government the rebels put together will not descend to the methods of the Empire (if there is any justice in their struggle); but still, I think they'll find it necessary to temper their liberalism somewhat, in specific cases, in the interest of preserving what is these days referred to as "the public good." (Nothing Marlene said necessarily precludes the punishment of guilty persons for their wrong-doings; I'm just expending my own thoughts on the subject.)

With reference to the same point, even if the "Imperials" do become dissatisfied under the new regime, there are ways to express such unhappiness other than violent, military-style rebellion. Some of these other methods can be employed even when the discontented persons are formally lacking the franchise. (Women and non-whites did not get the vote in this country by accident.) One can lobby important politicians; accumulate economic resources (maybe); there are hunger strikes, protest marches, and other forms of non-military demonstration. Even full-fledged "spontaneous" riots (like Watts) can get a point across, without necessarily turning into across-the-board "rebellion." Hopefully (there is no guarantee, particularly once the habit of direct violence has been established), even if they are discontent, former "Imperial" elements would try to resort to other methods of expression first, before plunging the SW galaxy once more into military strife.

And finally, before I close, I'd like to inject another note of scholarly stuffiness. I noticed, in SE#8, several mentions of the Arthurian legend, in connection with SW. In each case where specifics were cited, reference was made to T. H. White (THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING), and occasionally, to the musical ("Camelot") which was largely based on White's work. I would like to point out (gently, because I myself love and cherish both book and musical) that White's interpretation is not regarded in the (er) best of lights by Arthurian scholars, being full of modern anachronisms (of plot structure, character psychology, religious dynamics, and social hysteriography). For instance, the great emphasis placed on the romantic triangle between Arthur, Guinevere, and Lancelot in TOAFK is only a minor theme, in some of the source myths (there are versions in which Lancelot does not even exist)

((Ed: I believe that Lancelot first appeared in the story in Malory's version written down in the 1500's, nearly 1000 years after Arthur supposedly lived, and only because French romance was then the vogue. I believe in the original version, as penned by Geoffrey of Monmouth about 950 A.D., Bedwyr/Bedevere was Guinevere's lover as well as Arthur's boyhood friend)); the stress is laid instead on Mordred as the cause of Camelot's destruction. And even in White, the triangle was only a potentially devastating force--deadly as it could have been, the three had managed to maintain their precious, precarious equilibrium for many years, until Mordred intervened. I am not, myself, a professional Arthurian scholar, but I have gained the general impression from the pros that White's TOAFK is to the broader background of "Arthurian myth" what GONE WITH THE WIND (both book and movie form) is to a professional historian's view of the War Between the States (Civil War, as you prefer). Beautiful, memorable, and moving; and possessing more than the usual share of dramatic truth; but still, a work of literary/dramatic merit, rather than specific historical or analytical import. Drawing conclusions about comparisons drawn between OAFK/C and SW, in terms of "Arthurian legend" is therefore a business which needs must be approached with caution. I'm not saying it can't be done; but it needs to be done carefully, in very precise terms.

See y'all back at Speaker's Corner in a couple of months from now! Fair voyages, one and all.

REBUTTAL

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June 21, 1985

Another good issue, I see, aside from the two letters that raked me over the coals. I'll respond to them first, if only to get them out of the way. There has been enough hard feelings over the Luke/Han debate. I intend to put an end to at least this particular part of it.

Marcia Brin: I don't take anything that you say as a game, especially when you infer that I am a liar. If I remember correctly, all I said about the two of us at MediaWest was that we joked about out T-shirts. You pointed at your Synagogue of Ford shirt and I pointed at my Han, Luke and Leia Fan shirt. How is this misquoting you? Anything else I said about that MediaWest had no evil intent to it. In fact, all I actually did say was that we all got along fine and even joked on occasion. Is it such a terrible thing to say that we got along well? As far as the movie is concerned, we did discuss it in the bus going back to the hotel and we both disagreed. So what? If anyone wants to check this out, they only have to read SCOUNDEREL #5, page 46 (response to Barbara Izzo) to decide for themselves. As far as the begging/screaming

debate is concerned, I never said that you were the one who had originally mentioned the screaming. At the time I brought the topic up in JUNDLAND, TOO #2, I was responding to an entire list of anti-Luke comments that had been made by several people in the previous issue. No names were mentioned at all. In response to a comment about how Luke should not have begged his father for help, but should simply have died, I brought up the subject of the screaming because the comment about the begging had reminded me of it. At that time, I couldn't remember who had made the comment, but I have located the letter in SE#1, page 2, column 2 of Christine Jefford's letter. She didn't like the fact that Luke had been "writhing on the deck of the Death Star as the Emperor bombards him with power" and "hearing him cry and moan for help from his father." The second part was what I was thinking of when I saw the comment about begging, and it reminded me of the first part. I questioned Chris about this in the next issue, and she responded in SE#3 that Luke was an epic hero who should rise above such weakness. That was not enough to satisfy me, since I've never considered it any more "weak" for Luke to cry out in pain than it was for Han (another epic hero) to do the same when he was being tortured. Therefore, I brought up the subject again, hoping for a nice peaceful answer, whether I agreed with it or not. Writhing or screaming, it amounts to the same thing. Jean Stevenson gave the kind of answer I was looking for, even though I do disagree with her. She may have sounded tired of the whole subject, but at least she didn't jump down my throat and accuse me of doing things I'd never done. I have never said that you were the one who criticized Luke for screaming. In fact, I never said anything directly to you about it at all. Why are you assuming that this question was just addressed to you? It was addressed to fandom in general and the people who believe that Luke shouldn't have shown his suffering in particular. In answer to your comment that, if I'm so bored with the Luke/Han debate, why don't I come up with new topic to discuss, please read my last three letters in SE. I brought up about 15 topics of discussion. I only point this out in curiosity as to why you said this at all. I do admit to owing you one apology, even though you seem to think I'm the kind of person who wouldn't admit to a mistake. The person who criticized the editorial policy of JUNDLAND, TOO was Jean Stevenson (SCOUNDREL #2, page 25). I should have checked before I made this comment concerning you, rather than depending on my memory. I will end my response to you by saying that this is the last time I will respond to you, since any further correspondence between us either in zines or in personal correspondence (which you refuse to consider) is absolutely pointless.

Elsie Bartok: I believe that your comments directed at me were answered in my response to Marcia Brin. I did, however, want to thank you for the large print in your letter. By the time I had gotten to it, my eyes were pretty tired, so I appreciated it.

Thank you for printing the portfolio of photos. I have a rotten memory when it comes to connecting faces to names. Now, I'll be able to refer to these photos and, hopefully, not embarrass myself in a few cases. I don't, however, recall Liz Sharpe having antennae. Is this condition contagious?

I enjoyed Annie Wortham's article on Mark Hamill's play. I really wanted to see this play, after being very impressed by his performance in AMADEUS,

but it just wasn't meant to be. I did hear Mark on a rock radio show shortly after the show closed, and although he said he regretted the show's closing, he sounded pretty chipper.

Sally Syrjala: I like your idea about the Jedi awakening Force power only within people of their choice. I could see this as a major reason why they failed to survive. Such talent, in my opinion, should be brought out and trained in everyone who has it to the best of their ability. It's a part of evolution and shouldn't be suppressed. Such an outlook on the part of the Jedi could have led to a form of "enlightened" elitism. And, such a thing usually leads to plain old elitism—a danger to all. I also agree with you about Rick Deckard being a replicant in BLADERUNNER. There are so many things that point to this. What I'm curious about in this movie is why Deckard and Rachel went to Canada. If the USA was in such wretched shape, wouldn't some of the atmospheric damage have gotten to Canada, too? Were people just leaving the States to go to the colony worlds or were they leaving the whole world? Thank you for your remarks on Han and Luke's cries of pain. My personal attitude is that a person can just accept so much, before they have to do something to either change, start or stop a thing. This isn't only in regards to Han or Luke's actions, but to life in general. That's why I can find nothing wrong with the fact that both of them writhed and screamed and Luke asked for available help (Luke was also probably aware that his own death would have led to the deaths of a lot of other people, so he most likely wasn't just thinking of himself or even his father).

Rose Arnold: I've seen WITNESS several times and plan to see it several more. That scene where Book has no shirt on and has Rachel's blanket around his shoulders always turns me into a drooling mess. He looks so GORGEOUS in that scene! Well, actually he looks gorgeous throughout the whole movie, but that one happens to be my particular favorite. Aside from that, HF puts in a great acting job (once more showing how expressive his face can be) and everyone else in it is good, too. Better yet, I just love the movie for itself. It's beautiful. The incredible camerawork brings out the full lushness of the Lancaster County countryside. And, some of the shots of Rachel in the farmhouse look like Vermeer paintings. Lovely!

Cheree: In regards to your note within Lin Ward's letter—in my series Yoda is the last of his people. His people weren't the first Jedi, though. They are a race that had developed their psychic abilities to an incredible degree, and then when they realized that they were a dying race, passed their knowledge on to the humans we see in the movies. The humans passed this knowledge on to anyone else who could use it, ended up fighting a war over the proper use of it, and the Jedi we know grew out of this. This is in the outline I mentioned sending to Jenni last issue. Now, if I can only sit down and write the actual stories! All this takes place before my actual series starts, but I wanted to develop the events that would lead up to the events that we know of. In case you wonder if the Dagobahns regretted giving this knowledge away, they sure did!

Lin Ward: I agree with you 100% that the Jedi were of all races and species and of different crafts and skills, and they had learned to balance both "sides" of the Force to do their jobs properly. I also liked your idea of Force aberrants having their psychic centers burned out to stop them

from whatever they had in mind, as was done in MZB's Darkover books. I do think, however, that any poor communications between the Jedi would have been more deliberate than not. There must have been enough telepaths to keep them all in touch with each other, if necessary. If different groups of Jedi started going off on their own, they might not have wanted to stay in touch with each other. This would definitely speed up the gradual dissolution of the Order. About HF playing Fat Chester, last I heard, HF wasn't even in Hollywood yet when LEAVE IT TO BEAVER was being made. Can anyone verify this for me?

Debbie Gilbert: The 20,000 year figure comes from Ben's line about the Jedi being guardians of justice (or somesuch) for 1,000 generations. I figure a generation is 20 years long, therefore 20,000 years (give or take a century). I was also disturbed by the comment made by Laura Virgil's clergyman about never seeing an atheist die. I hope he isn't around when I kick off, because I'm a secular humanist.

Marlene Karkoska: Excellent point about the Imperials having some representation in the new Alliance government. I'm sure that not all of them were mad dogs or self-seeking aggrandizers (is there such a word?). To not give Imperial sympathizers some representation would cause more hard feelings and, as you say, possibly lead to another rebellion. Not to make them feel a part of things and not to take advantage of whatever improvements they might have brought in would be a ridiculous, selfish and dangerous waste. If the Old Republic was so corrupt, maybe the Imperials were able to change that in places (not that none of them weren't corrupt, but I imagine they had to be a lot more careful about it), and in places where science and education may have fallen apart, they may have brought them back together. There is usually some good mixed in with whatever bad may exist (which is not to say that I condone the Imps [I don't care if Mussolini did get the trains to run on time, he was still a murderous maniac], but to throw away the good with the bad would be downright stupid. Another case in point: where would our space program be today if not for the German scientists sent here after World War II? Would it have made more sense to let them rot in prison? Gods, now we're really getting into controversial subjects!).

Good ideas on how the Emperor could have hidden his aura from the Jedi either by killing off anyone who found him or by shielding himself. I do have a question about Yoda's method of shielding himself. We were never told where Dagobah was or how time worked there. Is it possible that Dagobah exists on another plane? How was Luke able to find it without ever having been there or getting directions? Maybe Yoda placed it where it could be found just long enough for Luke to land and then hid it in another dimension again?

Cheree: "Stagnant Jedi"?! What a heading for a letter. Sheesh!! Sounds like something from an H. P. Lovecraft or E. A. Poe story (a putrifying pool of stagnant Jedi).

Cindy Rodriguez: Yoda's statement about "Once you start down the Dark path, forever will it dominate you. Consume you it will" can be taken in different ways. Mostly I think it means that whatever you conceive the Dark Side of the Force to be, and if you move toward it, even if only temporarily, that will dominate all your future actions. If you see the Dark as evil and you have experienced and nearly given in to the evil, everything you do

after that will be affected by it. If you see the Dark as simply unbridled emotions, it's the same thing. Your future reactions to either evil or over-emotionalism would be either to give in to them or avoid them like the plague. Your whole life would revolve around this. And, if you go overboard in either accepting or avoiding them, you will be consumed.

Tim Blaes: Nah, the Falcon would sound like Majel Barrett. Also, if the Shelley Swan thing is a hoax, someone wasted an awful lot of time (to draw those weird Luke pictures) and money (postage) to carry it out. I think it's too weird to be a hoax, and if it is, the perpetrator is ashamed to step forth.

Now that the Elfquest saga is completed (except for possible future material that exists in the same tenuous future as other SW movies), I have to satisfy myself with the new comic reprints of the old material and looking for the added artwork. It ain't enough. Good point about the asteroids. I loved LADYHAWKE. It has been so long since I've been to see a movie that so engrossed the audience that several of them could be heard to be crying. That's what happened during the scene when Navarre and his love tried to touch hands as the change was taking place. And I was one of the ones crying.

Carole Regine: Good, though humorous question about whether or not Mon Calimari share humanoid sexual characteristics. Somehow, I can't imagine one of their females leaving a bunch of roe for the first passing male to fertilize, but that doesn't mean that they couldn't have developed some other method. I loved your description of Admiral Ackbar as an individual and a person. Bravo! Luke's predisposition to weapons could be a reflection of how he was first taught to be a Jedi. The very first thing Ben Kenobi taught him was how to use a lightsaber. In answer to your question of whether or not there is a similar factionalism in ST fandom between the Spock and Kirk fans, yes, there definitely is, between some of them. This doesn't exist only in the Kraith fans. There have always been ST fans, even way back before Kraith was first written, who were virulantly pro one and anti the other. It didn't make anymore sense in ST fandom than such a thing makes in SW fandom now. My question even back then was why do you have to hate one to prove that you like the other? No sense to that at all.

Chris Callahan: I hope that you realize your comment about "religious-style fanaticism" is probably going to get you lambasted. May the Force be with you. Also, I'll bet you that what Sally Syjala said about "the ideas of all the peoples (being) treated with care" as a way to peace meant exactly the same thing as what you said in response to it. Sally?

Maggie Nowakowska: Fascinating point about how the people in a universe that accepts esper talent and life-after-death would view the ending of life. I'll need some time to chew that one over and would be very interested in what others have to say about this.

Melody Corbett: It was what George wanted?

Pat Nussman: The block theory sounds pretty good to me (for reasons that we both know), but I also like the idea of one Jedi triggering the abilities in another who doesn't know he/she has such abilities (for the same reasons).

Jean Stevenson: I know that my reply to your comment about the \$3,000 for Harrison's star will make me unpopular to some people, but I agree with you completely. The way I see it, I show my appre-

ciation for HF by seeing his movies and buying books, magazines, photos, etc. about him. The dollar that would be sent for his star could be used more usefully by being sent to a charity. We could all just as easily collect this same \$3,000 and give it to charity in HF's name. That would be more of an honor than a piece of metal stuck in a sidewalk. Something like that I'd gladly donate to. Also, I agree that we are interpreting different things in *TEMPLE OF DOOM* and *ROMANCING THE STONE* from our own personal points of view. While there are things that we can both easily agree on (such as racism and sexism) in general, the way we apply these beliefs do tend to differ in regards to different things. This isn't to say that either of us is wrong, just that we see certain things differently. As to your interpretation of why Luke shouldn't have screamed (if you did give it before and I forgot, I apologize), we seem to come at this from totally differing viewpoints as well. I can't see Luke just laying down to die when it isn't necessary. He knows (I believe) that others will die if he does--the entire fleet will be destroyed and the future of the Galaxy will be awful to think of, and his father is there to help him. The importance of his survival goes beyond him or his father as individuals. They have a Galaxy to think of. Once before, in *TESB*, Luke was quite willing to die rather than be used by the Dark Side Emperor or Vader; this time, his job was to live for everyone else's sake.

In closing, I offer a suggestion for those who would continue the Han-Luke controversy until the whole of fandom is sick of it (I know that I am, and I half, not completely, regret jumping into the fray to begin with): On a piece of paper, please write the definition of an extensional statement (one that can be proven, such as "this wall is ten feet high") and an intensional statement (one which can't be proven no matter how many ideas or arguments are offered since its meaning exists only in the mind of the individual, such as, "100 angels can dance on the hilt [I wouldn't advise that they do it on the blade] of a lightsaber" or "Luke Skywalker has fallen to the Dark Side of the Force" or "Han Solo is a hidden Jedi").

I quote from S. I. Hayakawa's book *LANGUAGE IN ACTION* (Harcourt, Brace & Co., copyright 1941): "When...statements have extensional content, as when we say, 'This room is 15 ft long,' arguments can come to a close. No matter how many guesses there are about the length of the room, all discussion ceases when someone produces a tape measure. This, then, is the important difference between extensional and intensional meanings: namely, when utterances have extensional meanings, discussion can be ended and agreement reached; when utterances have intensional meanings, arguments may, and often do, go on indefinitely. Such arguments can result only in irreconcilable conflict. Among individuals, they may result in the breaking up of friendships; in society, they often split organizations into bitterly opposed groups; among nations, they may aggravate existing tensions so seriously as to become contributory causes of war."

I've seen several friendships end and SW fandom partially split due to this fannish "controversy". Before what is now obviously a fannish feud escalates into a full-scale war, why don't we all just cool it?

That's it for now, Cheree. Sorry if I ran a bit over the page limit. I'm sorry that the only jarring notes in this issue had to be in relation

to myself and that I had to use a good part of my letter defending myself. I will say that I have no intention of writing to either of the persons who stomped on me in this issue anymore. If they wish to carry on the "battle", they'll have to do it alone.

FROM DOWN UNDER

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July 1, 1985

Well, here it is at long last, the promised letter. I'm afraid I haven't got anything very new to say, but I did want to join in, so here goes nothin'. First up, G'DAY, MATES!!! (Sorry, couldn't resist.) Have a feeling this is going to be a very long letter. Apologize in advance, but you will go and make so many interesting comments.

Ann Wortham: Thanks for telling us about HARRIGAN 'N HART. Mark/Luke dressed as a little girl and singing "Lay me in my little bed"! Brother, would I love to see Harrison/Han's reaction to that! As to your letter, Ann, okay, so what did the Falcon have to say? You shouldn't have had too many problems communicating what with your antennae and all!

Sally A. Syrjala: Very interesting comment on *BLADERUNNER* re the reason for Deckard's possibly being a replicant. You got me worried now. Like the idea of "power matrixes" amongst Jedi and its current loss to them because of lowered membership so to speak. Luke Skywalker may give this a totally fresh start which must be what is needed...I mean a different approach, perhaps a new type of Jedi altogether to the old...one which may be more impervious to those elements which got them into trouble initially. "Polarities" and "a neutral state of being" for Vader's death/return. Very well expressed.

Mary Keever: Agree that there would be no final test that would make a Jedi immune to the dark side for all time. Luke's asset here will be that he is a very accepting, non-judging type of person now. A lot of this attitude could have been learned from Han Solo. In *ANH*, Luke is angry because Han refuses to join the Alliance. Leia sets him straight and Han's later selfless actions over the Death Star and on Hoth and Bespin prove to Luke that each being must express the good within themselves from the source of individuality which makes them unique: the soul. Anything else would be false and twisted. Any attempt to mold a person to your own idealized vision could only be a fatal mistake, one which perhaps Vader was enmeshed in his youth. Han's independence of judgment, his actions, despite what he says, more often than not initiated by loyalty for and love of friends, could have been a vital part of the example shown an impressionable Luke and one which stood by him in the final confronta-

tion. He would not "turn" and betray or give up loving his friends. Thekla Kurth is right. Leia is the one who will most likely need the most careful watching. Han, of course, learned much from Luke; I am merely saying here that's one thing Luke learned about Han.

Laura Virgil summed up my and many others' feelings about Luke/Han precisely. How about we let that particular debate rest there?

No, Sally, I can't see Leia joining Han as a pirate. She has struggled hard to get to this point of victory/power so that she could go on from there. The Rebellion was the means towards the establishment of a new order; Leia will want to be a part of that.

Rose Arnold: WITNESS? There are no superlatives worthy of it. It is simply the best. DUNE: the movie book/publicity alone was enough to stop me from going.

Lin S. Ward/Jeanine Hennig: No, Jedi as one particular race doesn't ring true to me, though it is a fascinating possibility. Since the Force is a part of every living being, it would be accessible to all with the correct psychic temperament. Wookies seem likely candidates having more time to learn and ponder. Life-span seems an important factor, i.e. Yoda is a Master and lives to 900 standard (?) years. Humans, in this regard, are severely handicapped and could lead to a tendency to be impatient--witness Yoda's/Ben's exchange on this very point. Perhaps humans have some other trait which outweighs this flaw--compassion, strong ties of love, etc. Reincarnation or further learning when a human fades/dies and becomes a part of the Force in a way unique to Jedi keeps that one particular entity growing...until he is reborn?

Cheree: Liked your idea about Yoda's ancestry and mission. Lin, a common oath binding a multi-racial Jedi order? More than likely. How do you think it would be phrased? The Emperor--"Hot Hands"--like that! Your summary of the purposes behind Luke's, umm, unfortunate nickname was very concisely stated and probably hit Lucas's intentions exactly. How about "Wormie" as in caterpillar--waiting for metamorphosis? Agree with being totally puzzled by Yoda's "now matters are worse" comment re Luke's going to Bespin. Whatever happened to "no greater love hath a man than that he lay down his life for his friends"? Luke must have known that he had little chance of survival, as did Han when he tackled that Hoth blizzard. Disregarding philosophical mumbo-jumbo, love is the greatest Force in the universe. Perhaps Yoda was merely referring to the extra pain Luke would bring upon himself; Yoda and Ben must have intended telling Luke about Vader soon, but he put himself in a position of finding out painfully. Then again, Luke probably learned more through his suffering than years of teaching. One thing really throws me, though--Luke's first reaction to Vader's "news" is such utter revulsion that he'd almost prefer death, yet six months later, with no explanation as to what caused the change, he can see good in his father. How did that happen?! By the way, "Oh, mushroom of little faith"! Gigggle!

Maggie Nowakowska: So right re your comments on adults who view kids as a "separate species". There is not much of childhood left for children today. Could this be the basis for the despair and violence so prevalent these days? Lucas gave us a ray of hope, of love; let's make sure we never let go of it.

Debbie Gilbert/Laura Virgil: That clergyman's

comment re athiests. How many people only claim faith in a deity out of fear/superstition/social programming? I believe very much in God/Force but only after ten years of complete atheism. It seems a natural thing to me to question, to be skeptical and then maybe find, accept, rather than just swallow it from the cradle. As for life after death, I can't see as it makes a scrap of difference one way or the other. It's what you do here and now that counts, and if you're only doing it angling towards a final reward, you're doing it for all the wrong reasons.

Michelle Malkin/Debbie Gilbert: Human origins from one planet. Very probable. Otherwise there would have to be great genetic incompatibilities, at least. Can't see evolution taking an exact same course on several isolated planets. Take the mammals of Australia as an example--and they had a common ancestor a long way back--but still developed major differences. Debbie, ouch, about Lucas being "mercenary". Perhaps the present evidence seems to lean that way, but I believe he is far too creative a man to be overly wrapped in bits of trading paper.

Marlene Karkoska: Agree Vader did the logical thing in following the Falcon in ESB. After all, everyone else, including Luke, disappeared rapidly into hyperspace. The Falcon would have been the only thing left to follow by the time Vader got back to his ship. Yes, a Jedi would have to be independent of any other judgmental influences other than the Force. Liked your comments concerning the lack of collapse of the Jedi and the way you based your argument on Kenobi's words. For the sake of a lasting peace the Imperials MUST be included, or at least their rights given careful consideration by any newly formed government. Look at the results of the Versailles Treaty of 1918. No, Luke did not have to tell Threepio of his mission. Agree with your comments that droids are not equal to humans, but feel they should nevertheless be treated with courtesy. And I think there is ample evidence that they do have feelings and their obvious loyalty, even though programmed, should not be treated with scorn. (Not that you are, I am referring here to characters in the SW saga.) Am not sure that Luke should have been told about his father at an early age. He could easily have become embittered, and failed to grow into the innocent, trusting adult who is capable of refusing the Dark. The SW movies without Solo's breaking the tension with humor could easily have become tedious. Luke's lack of knowledge of the Jedi eventually worked to his advantage, as I think Yoda at least intended. He is looking for a complete new beginning from Skywalker. The forest analogy works well here again. Forest fire: devastation: rebirth. Maybe this was what the order needed.

Cheree/Michelle: You saved me the trouble of commenting on Han's "I know". You said it for me perfectly. Except I'd like to add that everyone's forgetting the basic emotion Solo would be feeling at that moment--sheer panic/fear/shock. I'm surprised he could talk/think at all. I'd be too busy screaming. As for screaming, I'll get to that later. You sum it up beautifully, Michelle. "For a Jedi to be immune to Falling would make him/her too godlike to be believable." Yes, medical technology would at least have been able to heal Vader's scars and probably his lungs. It must have been a deliberate denial for purposes which suited the Emperor. Another possibility would be though that medical treatment must be given within a certain time span

after the damage is done, and Vader simply couldn't be reached. As to what is to be done with captured stormtroopers, Karen Ripley tackled this problem movingly in her story "Loose Ends" in WOOKIEE COM-MODE #2. Luke argues that a young, wounded trooper should be permitted to return free to his family. The youngster obviously wants no more of war. How many would have been compelled/drafted into the fighting? Given the Empire's style, I'd say the vast majority. The Alliance Council objects to Luke's proposal, saying "It is not policy". Solo crudely points out what he thinks of this beginnings of bureaucracy. Keeping these men prisoners of war when that war is all over bar the shouting would be suicidal for any new government. Interesting point re the spark that set off the Clone Wars--maybe George will soon oblige with answers.

Cindy: Hello. You did marvelously on your first letter. Makes it tough on me. But then this is no competition. It is for fun. I hope we both have lots more. (Thanks to Cheree.) I enjoyed hearing from someone new very much. Wish more fans would come out of the woodwork. There could only be a handful of Australians who have even heard of fanzines, which is a shame because I know they'd love 'em. With exchange rates what they are for the aussie dollar, purchasing them is all but impossible now. And I can only share with so many. I suppose if we got together and pooled our cash, we might be onto something.

Cheree: Your point about male/female involvement in fandom was well stated and intriguing. Think your conclusion may hit close to the mark, i.e., men/adventure vs. women/characters. Think you can see this also in novels men and women prefer to read, or at least what they like most about a book. I love adventure as much as anyone, but can't get into it without a character to really care about. Men don't seem to be bothered by this aspect as much. The action is more important. (And this is, of course, a generalization.) Han caught my eye (put that down as an understatement!) but it was the RELATIONSHIP between the SW characters that held my attention long term, and also the moral issues raised by the story.

Terri: Very good poing re the Emperor's hold over Vader being Vader's hatred of him.

Sally: Han/Luke screaming/begging. Both men simply did what was natural at the time. Han had no one to beg for help, otherwise I'm sure he would have made us all deaf. (He gave Vader such a headache he had to leave!) Seriously, though, why do you think Vader left the room before the torture was properly underway? Did he simply have business elsewhere or as a Force adept could he feel Solo's pain/anguish in the call he was unconsciously projecting, and wanted to distance himself from it? Or did he as a person not actually like physical torture or condone its use--he used drugs on Leia. Well, any ideas?

Luke could not have known Vader would die in his attempt to save him. Luke's utter grief as he realizes the man is dying proves that. Perhaps he would have held back if he'd known it would cost his father his life--but then again Anakin became a part of the Force as a result of his self-sacrifice and therefore did not really die.

Barbara Tennison: "The personal, character-centered story is SW's strength." Absolutely--and note Cheree's comment on women being in the majority in SW fandom. Jedi being "incorruptible" accounts for them being killed off rather than merely quietened. Probably true. Seems to be the fate of all

incorruptibles--they don't sway with the breeze, they snap/die.

Vader's murdering his own officers in ESB could be in part attributable to his inner turmoil. Love your comments on Han of ROTJ. "His joy in Leia is wonderful to see." Exactly. Is something wrong with being in love?

Tim: Thanks for your insight about your cat. I sympathize. My wookiee/dog is the same, but I can't throw her out; she's too heavy. She pins me down until I surrender and take her out for a walk--when she demands it, she gets it! Thanks also for defining Force Sensitive/Force User so concisely. This is how I see it, too. That makes twice you've been asked about your omniscience regarding Luke's virginity. Mary. So? God, being bored--I like the idea. Share your hurt re the Ewok comic, only I think Richie Rich/HotStuff are far superior. I had my answer re the asteroids typed up, then saw that you had said it for me; thanks.

Carole Regine: Ackbar's reaction struck me as being relief, but I like your interpretation of compassion. You're right about Luke's hand giving him the most trouble during the Emperor's attack, and Vader's faster demise under similar treatment. Differences between Kenobi and Yoda; well said.

Chris Callahan: I hated that TOD scene of the victim burned alive. The explicit and unnecessary portrayal of suffering shown here almost turned the movie into a negative experience for me. I couldn't get that imagery out of my head. Torture exists in our world, and I didn't want to be reminded of it when I'd paid to relax.

Marcia Brin: I like George Lucas. I take your point that Luke's actions could be interpreted in two opposing ways. Every witness to an event perceives even its physical parameters differently. Moral judgments of character behavior in a film about which we have no detailed frame of reference, are always going to be subjective. Your interpretations of Luke's behavior fit your perceptions. Since we do not know what Lucas intends for Luke in the future, we can only guess at his state at the end of ROTJ. The spirit of the three films, however, is fairy tale and this would indicate a happy ending for the heroes. Note Harrison Ford's comment; he wanted Solo to die in JEDI, but Lucas insisted on a happy ending. A happy ending would indicate all's well with Luke and the Force. Brother, Mickey and Marcia, let's not get to pistols/Lightsabers at ten paces, please! As Cheree says, everything that was said and done was in "all innocence and a spirit of friendship." That much at least is indisputable.

Jean L. Stevenson: Always enjoy your long letters. Liked "leashed with love" discussion. Interesting SW/Arthurian legend comparison. You said it for me re agreement/disagreement--only much more fluently.

Elsie Bartok: Sorry. Han/Luke are equal in my book so can't get into this type of discussion/comparison. The evidence cited to support your words could be interpreted in any of a hundred ways, i.e., Marquand's words. These people are human, everything they say is not gospel. Ask them the same question on a different day and I'd bet you'd get a different answer. As much as I admire Lucas, I really can't see him being as devious as to take semi-sacred care with every word, every gesture, every nuance--it's not meant to be a Chinese puzzle after all. Note the freedom of interpretation and script changes given the actors alone--in THE MAKING OF RETURN OF THE JEDI, Hamill, Ford and Fisher have

quite a discussion re Solo's and Skywalker's joint line "Tell him!". I'm sure Lucas meant ROTJ to be taken much more as is on the surface, rather than to find guessed at hidden meanings--which is fun but no more than that. Food for thought but not food for war. Alternate possibilities, no more, no less.

B. J. Evans: Good point on amount of faith influencing an individual's amount of active Force use.

Well, that's it from Down Under. Aussies are garrulous as you've just discovered. Sorry. Looking forward to SE#10. Till then, keep smiling!

CLARIFICATION

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July 9, 1985

Well, unfortunately, peace did not reign for very long within the pages of SE! I noticed that things got a bit "hot 'n heavy" again in #8, and I'm afraid my present LoC is probably not going to cool things down much!

I'm sorry, Cheree, that some people found it necessary to attack you in their LoCs last issue. I thought that their remarks were uncalled for. Some people don't seem to be able to see the possible positive motivations behind people's actions; they only look for negative ones. (As you said, you included the note in a spirit of friendship.) Some folks are quick to take offense, but seem oblivious to the fact that they offend others with alarming regularity.

After reading my own comments concerning Imperial involvement in the future Republic in the last issue, I realized that I did not explain myself very well. I probably came across as an Imperial sympathizer, which was truly not my intention. I'd like to take this opportunity to try to clarify my position a bit. (So...HOLD YOUR FIRE, okay, guys?)

The war in that Faraway Galaxy is a Civil War. The Rebels are not seeking to secede from the Empire and to set up their own form of government, independent from, but co-existing with, the Imperial government. They are fighting the war to return freedom to the entire Galaxy, and to replace the corrupt, repressive Imperial Government with one that is more fair and just. Therefore, when the battles are finally over, it's going to be important to try to pull the Galaxy together and to try to heal the wounds caused by a long period of warfare. If, after the American Civil War, the South had been denied representation in the government, this country would never have become unified. ((Ed: To Southerners, this is something of a sore point. During the Reconstruction years, the South was treated as a conquered enemy country and "put in their place.") I think the same thing would be true for the SW galaxy. If the New Republic is ever going to be strong, united and prosperous--indeed, if it's ever really going to be a true Re-

public--then every group needs to be represented, and everyone needs to be part of a co-operative effort that will make it a viable government, one that will be able to handle the multitude of problems of a vastly diverse Galaxy. However, I am certainly not recommending that Imperials who were guilty of war crimes be included in the new government. Just as there were good people in the North and in the South during our country's Civil War, I'm sure that there are also good people who were on the Imperial side or who were Imperial sympathizers, but who weren't active in supporting the repressive policies of Palpatine. These Imperials may have truly felt that the Imperial form of government was better for the Galaxy than a Republican form of government at that time. Perhaps they felt it could more effectively unite the galaxy. I'm sure that these Imperials were against tyranny, and that they would have preferred a new leader in place of Palpatine, but perhaps as law-abiding citizens, they did not condone open rebellion as the means to accomplish a change. There were probably also people in the military who followed the orders of their superiors, but who were worthy men and women. It is people such as these, who are basically good and honorable, that I am suggesting need to be a part of the New Republican government, along with the former Rebels. Of course, many checks and balances would need to be built into the new government, and I'm not saying it would be an easy task. However, if true, lasting peace is ever going to become a reality in the SW galaxy, I do think that the former Imperials need to be represented in the New Republic. After this "clarification" of my position, I don't know whether there will be fewer or MORE blasters aimed in my direction! Oh, well! At least things won't be dull! (not that they EVER are!)

Mary Kever: If you want to read a story that doesn't have Han and Leia settling down to a quiet life after the war, Liz Sharpe has a story called "Command Performance" in SOUTHERN KNIGHTS that has Han and Leia living an adventurous life as the secret heads of "The Department", flying off in the Falcon to fight crime in the galaxy. It's a wonderful story with GREAT characterizations of Han, Luke and Leia. I think you might like it.

Michelle Malkin: Perhaps the Clone Wars were fought over the issue of clones. Perhaps the knowledge and technology of clone production was readily available and one group wanted to mass produce clones (perhaps to serve in the military), and the other group was vigorously opposed to "manufacturing people". They were unable to solve their differences and it eventually led to war--hence "Clone Wars". Wars have been caused by far more trivial issues!

Jean Stevenson: I disagree with your statement that "Luke doesn't understand that everyone must die sometime, and that it's better to make it meaningful than not." He does understand this, and he has willingly put his life on the line many times FOR A CAUSE--to free the princess, to save the Rebel base, to avoid joining his father in Darkness (when he jumped from the gantry on Bespin), and to rescue Han Solo, for example. The point I was trying to make is that Luke was not as willing to be a useless martyr and to die for nothing if there was a way he could prevent it. He was not willing to quietly allow the Emperor to kill him knowing that he wouldn't have saved anyone's life through his sacrifice, and knowing that two Darkside Force users would remain alive and continue to terrorize the galaxy after he was gone. I'm sure that Luke Skywalker also real-

ized that as the last Jedi knight left in the galaxy, he was certainly far more valuable to the Alliance and the future Republic alive than dead. He was the only one who could found a New Order of Jedi Knights. It was because Luke did not see his death at the hands of the Emperor (after he rejected the Dark Side) as a meaningful one, that he was unwilling to silently sacrifice himself at that time. Luke saw in his father a chance to save them both, and he seized the opportunity—a wise move, in my opinion.

Marcia Brin: I do hate to cross sabers with you again, and I was really planning to remain as calm and patient as a Jedi Knight and not let your comments upset me, but there is **POSITIVELY NO WAY** that I can sit back quietly when you as much as accused Luke Skywalker of being guilty of **MASS MURDER** and **INCEST** (and Luke fans of condoning such things) without responding to your accusations!

By "mass murder," I assume you are referring to the fact that Skywalker destroyed the sail barge on Tatooine which caused the deaths of Jabba's nasties. Well, from my point of view, Luke was acting in SELF DEFENSE (which I do not equate with murder), protecting himself and his friends. If Luke had not destroyed the barge, more of Jabba's henchmen would have found their way to the deck gun and would have pulverized our heroes on the skiff before they could have gotten safely away. No one aboard that sail barge was an "innocent" either. Even Jabba's droids were cruel and evil. No one who is involved with a crime lord is a good or nice person. Jabba's companions certainly seemed to relish the prospect of watching Luke and his friends become the Sar-lacc's main course. Unfortunately for them, Skywalker managed to turn the tables and Jabba's crew perished instead. That way of life involves risks and Jabba's people knew that going in. Luke's act on the sail barge was one of self-defense, not murder. However, if you INSIST on saying that Luke was guilty of murder because he kicked the trigger of the deck gun, which effectively destroyed the sail barge and its crew, then I hope you realize that you are also accusing Leia of being an ACCOMPLICE (or at least an accessory) to mass murder. She did, after all, POINT the gun at the deck for him...and don't tell me that Leia didn't know what Luke planned to do. Leia is no fool...she knew Luke wasn't simply planning to rearrange the furniture or to redecorate the sail barge!

As for your charge of INCEST...WAIT A MINUTE! The film I saw was rated PG! Frankly, I don't understand how you can consider a simple, innocent kiss to be the equivalent of incest, but again, if you INSIST that it is, I'd like to remind you that it was Leia who kissed Luke several times, not the other way around. If you are referring to fan fiction incest stories, I've read three, and I know that at least two of the three authors of those stories are known as Han fans, not Luke fans. (I am unfamiliar with the third.)

As to your charges of "slavery" and "betraying a companion", because Luke sent Threepio and Artoo into Jabba's palace, if Luke was guilty of anything here, it was only of being less than completely honest with Jabba the Hutt. As I've said before, Luke never intended to allow Jabba to keep his droids. They were a necessary part of his plans to rescue Han Solo and he presented them as "gifts" as a ruse to get them (and his lightsaber) safely inside the palace. I saw this as a clever little "Trojan horse" idea—"beware of Jedi Knights bearing gifts!" And you can read my LoC in SE#8 for my

position on briefing droids about a mission or "requesting" their help before sending them to do a job. All of your other charges against Luke have been effectively answered in past issues of SE by others.

I also wanted to point out that the two quotes that you keep repeating in your LoCs as "proof" that Lucas agrees with you that Luke is immoral—"final turn to the bad side" and "Luke is the one with the problems", can be interpreted in more than one way. Others have mentioned this before, but you don't seem to believe that any interpretations but your own could possibly be right. You again brought up the fact that Lucas said that Luke's costume was supposed to look "Vaderish", but you neglected to mention that he also said that the costume was "more Jedi." You seem to ignore quotes or parts of quotes that don't fit your theories.

There are two quotes that I would like you to address if you would. If you still truly believe that Han Solo is a hidden Jedi, I would really like to have you explain to me why Yoda told Luke, "When gone am I, the last of the Jedi will you be." And if Yoda truly believed that Luke would be an evil Jedi, why would he encourage him to "pass on what you have learned," knowing the great risks involved in training Jedi Knights? I would really appreciate it if you would respond to these quotes in your next LoC.

Marcia, you made some very serious accusations about "the concerted and often nasty effort being made to shut Luke's critics up." You said, "Every means, fair and foul is being used. Anything to get us to stop writing." However, you didn't present any specific examples of this in your LoC. Cheree seems to be allowing you issue after issue to say WHATEVER you feel like saying. Who is trying to keep you from speaking, and how are they keeping you from criticizing Luke? If this sort of thing is going on, it needs to be stopped.

As to your sweeping generalization about Luke fans, this is one Luke fan who does not hate George Lucas! I admire him and his creativity, and I'm grateful to him for sharing his universe and his characters with us. Although I would have preferred more emphasis on the story and more on-screen time for the three principals in ROTJ and fewer special effects, monsters and Ewoks, I basically liked ROTJ, and I was very pleased with Luke's growth and maturity in the film.

Before seeing ROTJ, I wanted the Princess to marry the Jedi Knight and live "happily ever after". However, I have accepted what George Lucas presented to us in ROTJ: Luke and Leia are brother and sister and the children of Darth Vader, Han and Leia will almost certainly marry in the future.

It's not Luke fans who seem to be unable to accept ROTJ and who are angry with Lucas for it; it seems that more Han fans than Luke fans found that film difficult to swallow. A few overzealous Han fans don't seem to be willing to accept the "surface" story of ROTJ, although they have no difficulty accepting the "surface" stories of ANH and TESB. WHY IS THAT?

Well, I have a theory to explain it. (And I'm sure it's not my theory alone!) I wasn't going to torture everyone with this, but since it's been over TWO WHOLE YEARS now, I've decided it's about time to present the truth as I see it. My poor penpals, who have suffered through my "Treatise on the Reason for the Great Luke Controversy", are hereby invited to skip the rest of this LoC and go on to the next one! I don't want to bore you to

tears! (...and I hope I won't put the rest of you to sleep!)

I think that this whole anti-Luke campaign came about because of the disappointment and betrayal some people felt when things did not turn out in ROTJ the way that they had anticipated that they would. Some people really wanted and expected Han Solo to be Yoda's "Other", and I think some also thought that Luke Skywalker would die in ROTJ, and that Han Solo would be revealed as the true hero of the SW saga. Unfortunately for them, not only did Lucas' story not unfold the way they expected, but they found that Han's role was actually reduced in ROTJ. Even more surprisingly--lo! and behold--the "Kid" had grown up! Luke Skywalker had a real presence in this film. His character showed much growth and maturity--much to the disappointment of those fans for whom Han Solo was the be-all and end-all of the SW universe. In ANH and TESB, Luke could be tolerated by these people as the idealistic, unsophisticated kid with the sky-high goal of attaining Jedi Knighthood. No one really needed to take him seriously. In fact, in TESB, Luke was much like a little boy, really--always dirty, sweaty or bloody, or some combination of the three. Someone was always rescuing him or helping him. (Han rescued him on Hoth; Leia & company rescued him on Bespin; Ben talked to Yoda on his behalf; Yoda got his x-wing out of the swamp). Meanwhile, Han Solo had the fun, exciting, heroic and...yes...cleaner part. Han rescued Luke, was involved in the thrilling asteroid sequence, won Leia's love, got to say the best lines and was the center of attention in the carbon freezing chamber. Luke spent most of his on-screen time alone or interacting with the little green guy and the Big Guy in Black. Han, meanwhile, spent most of his time interacting with Leia. It's easy to see who had the best part in TESB!

Then along came ROTJ, and things were different. Luke Skywalker was presented in this film as an intelligent, talented, self-assured young man. He was now more in control of himself and the situations in which he found himself. He was now the rescuer, the one with the exciting parts. He also now had abilities that Han did not possess, and some Han fans found this difficult to accept.

Some of these fans were so devastated by the way in which Lucas presented his characters and his story in ROTJ and were so crushed by the knowledge that Han Solo was not the "Other", that they couldn't deal with it, and they tried to convince themselves and others that the story that was shown on screen was not really the true, important tale. They dreamed up all sorts of far-fetched theories to try to invalidate the on-screen story. They tried to deny that their own expectations for ROTJ were wrong by "proving" that the surface story of ROTJ was not really the story that George Lucas intended to tell, and that the "real" story, with Han Solo as the ultimate hero, was "hidden" under the surface story.

Of course, in order to elevate Han Solo to the position of chief hero of the SW saga, Luke Skywalker HAD TO GO! Since George Lucas didn't do them the courtesy of killing him off in ROTJ, they had to get rid of him somehow--and what better way than to claim that he was Evil and had fallen to the Dark? If Luke was now the villain, it would leave the door open for Han to fill the position of primary hero. These overzealous Han fans utilized questionable interpretations of quotes and of characters' actions and motives to "prove" their theories, and they started to wage a vicious campaign

against Luke to "prove" that he was indeed a wicked person, and not the heroic individual that the surface story presented. Since Lucas didn't give Luke Skywalker an easy victory in ROTJ, some people chose to believe that he never gained his victory; that he never became a Jedi Knight and they did their best to convince others that he did not.

Fortunately, from all the letters I've read in SE and personal letters I've received, it seems that their attempts to assassinate Luke's character have backfired on them. During the past two years, Luke Skywalker seems to have gained far more fans and admirers than he has lost because of the relentless efforts by a few to convince others of his immorality, and to diminish his importance in the SW saga. More people have come to appreciate Luke as a result of their campaign. It's nice to know that truth usually does win out in the end! In a way, though, I do feel sorry for these people that started and are still actively engaged in the anti-Luke campaign. They must have been terribly disappointed by ROTJ to persist in their beliefs for so long.

Well, I'm sorry for putting all of you through all that (Hey! Wake up! I'm about to sign off now!) but after reading over the SAME old quotes and accusations in some peoples' LoCs in SE#8, I thought it was important for them to see the truth (at least as I see it!) in print. I promise you that this is the LAST time that I will ever respond to these unfair and repetitious accusations against Luke. Luke's critics have received more than enough attention. They won't be getting any more from me. Hopefully, next issue, we can go on to new and more pleasant topics.

Once again, Cheree, my sincerest apologies for taking up more than my share of the space in your zine. (Talk about repetitious! It seems that all my LoCs end with an apology for my "long-windedness!") (SIGH) Will I never learn to control my runaway pen?

Clear skies, everyone! And remember--good guys can wear black!



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July 5, 1985

Hello, all! Hope everybody had a great holiday! SE#8 was very interesting, as always, and now I've finally got time to comment.

One question that was brought up recently that I, too, had been curious about for some time was a Jedi's immunity to falling to the Dark Side. A Jedi is apparently not immune, as many pointed out in SE#8, because Anakin fell after he had become a Jedi. With that in mind, can anybody figure out why the Emperor was so quick to give up on converting Luke once he reached Jedihood? If Anakin could be turned as a Jedi, then why not Luke? Seemed like once they were both aware of Luke's status, that was it.

Mary Keever: Hi! Hope you have/had a happy birthday! I agree with you about Han (talent, wit, etc.), and you already know what I think of Luke's sexy legs (and the rest of him! Drool...) Leia running off with Han? Why not? The war is over for the most part. She has no real obligation anymore. Sure!

"Bantha fodder" is the perfect description of that SW IV mag. Reminds me of those tabloids you see at the checkout counter with headlines like "16-YEAR-OLD GIRL GIVES BIRTH TO CABBAGE PATCH DOLL!" (My reaction to that one practically got me banned from that particular grocery store. Hysterical!)

Hey! I've got Vader in my car, too! He's perched up on the rear-view mirror--lightsaber drawn! Boba Fett used to be in there, but I think my beloved feline has dragged him off to a fate worse than Sarlacc Pit.

Rose Arnold: Well, although I am rarely referred to as reasonable and never sensible, I'd like to comment on WITNESS anyway. I just saw it for the first time about 3 weeks ago, and I thought it was great! I am a Ford fan, though not to the extent that I want my ashes sprinkled over his body (have you informed your lawyer of this, Cheree?), and that's the main reason I went to see it in the first place. As it turned out, I got so involved in it that, at times, I didn't even remember Harrison was there. I thought his performance was excellent, though, as usual.

Marlene K: I agree that Luke didn't have to tell C3PO the plan unless by choice. I still believe that if Luke had told 3PO, he would've given something away, however unintentional it may have been. I realize he never really gave any reason for us to believe he would divulge secrets, but I think the fact that he was the worrier that he was caused Luke to leave him uninformed.

1987!! That's two years longer than I think any of us would care to wait, but it doesn't really matter as long as we DO get to see the rest of the saga. Still, the sooner the better!

Michelle Malkin: I never found humor in Han's "I know" line, either. In fact, I was too busy crying my eyes out because he was being put into carbon freeze to laugh at anything!

Terri Black: How did Vader know that Luke had constructed a new lightsaber? He felt it through the Force, of course! (groan...) Just kidding! Is it just my eyesight and memory going bad at a very early age, or did Luke's ROTJ saber look different (other than the color) from Vader's and the one he

previously owned? The hilt appeared longer and somehow different to me. Maybe it LOOKED hand-made. Vader did examine it rather closely as he made the comment.

Tim Blaes: Greetings! I must be paranoid (I get it from my cat) because the other night I had the strangest dream that you were trying to kill me! Really!

Anyhow, for months I've been trying to think of the name of that show--LAND OF THE LOST! Yes! Thank you! Here's one--does anyone remember Ultra Man? Few of my friends remember it. I used to watch it religiously.

Your "mind games" theory is very plausible. I've often wondered how Leia resisted the mind probe, and this is the best explanation I've seen yet. I don't accept the theory that it was simply because she possessed the power of the Force. Some training of sorts would have to have been involved.

Pancreas ripped out? Hmmm...there's a thought.

Marcia Brin: What was it that Reagan said? Oh, yes--"There you go again."

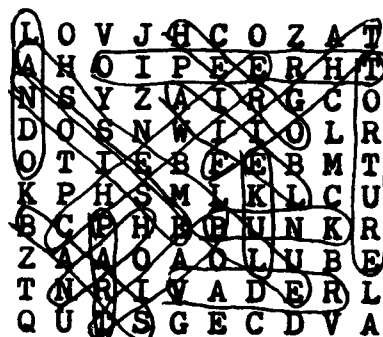
Ann Wortham: Thanks for sharing your trip to Broadway with us. Some of us weren't so lucky. (sigh...)

Did anyone catch the story on CNN about the authors of business management books putting out video tapes of their lectures? It was short, but they went on to say that the prices of these tapes are exorbitant so, since nobody wants to pay over a thousand dollars for nothing but hours and hours of lectures, there is a little entertainment mixed in. The example they gave was the tape by the author of THE ONE MINUTE MANAGER. The clip showed the scene from TESB where Yoda raises Luke's x-wing with Luke's "I don't believe it" and Yoda's "That is why you fail". Then the guy cuts in and says, "Poor Luke. He didn't visualize his goal; therefore, he couldn't obtain it." I don't know why, but I thought it was hilarious. Then again, my sense of humor has always been a little warped (better a warped sense of humor than no sense of humor).

Melody Corbett: I read in STARLOG that there were three different endings filmed for ROTJ and not even the actors knew which would be used until the screening. In TIME magazine, I think Harrison Ford best explained why we got the ending that we did, "George has a predisposition for happy endings." Too bad we can't see ALL of the endings!

Well, I guess that's about it for now. My fanged feline won't leave me alone and he's too little to put outside (besides, he has a severe case of neurosis). Until next time--clear skies!

(38) CLOUD CITY JAIL



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July 10, 1985

I enjoyed seeing four pages of photos from MediaWest. Now, if someone will write an account of his/her experiences at that con...

Annie Wortham: Sounds like your trip to NYC was really worth it. Thanks for sharing your experiences and thanks especially for your comments on HARRIGAN 'N HART. Mark Hamill in a dress and goldilocks wig? I guess I'd have been...spellbound, too.

Liz Sharpe: I hadn't known that you were of the same tentacled race as Annie. I'd thought Annie was the last of her kind.

Jean Stevenson: Glad you agree that Dr. Mary U.'s idea of separate fathers for Luke and Leia is a nifty basis for fanfic. Truthfully, I'd had something less scientific than high tech surrogate parenting in mind but your idea is certainly interesting. That's the beauty of fan fiction, isn't it? One stray thought can lead to a long, complex story, or a Moral Outrage. As Danaline said, IT'S A WIDE-OPEN, FREE SPACIN' AREA WHERE ANYTHING GOES...at least until the letter from Lucasfilm's lawyers arrives.

Melody Corbett: The theories you've heard, about GL's motives for ending the Middle Trilogy as he did, are, as you've said, very extreme. Good grief, do you mean there are people who actually believe that Lucas would trash a multi-million dollar project to "get even" with an actor? "Get even" for what? Have I missed something? So far as I can see, Harrison Ford is among those who helped make the SW saga the roaring success that it was. Hardly a reason for GL to hate the man... ((Ed: Not to mention the piles of green stuff that Harrison has helped earn for George, not only in SW but in the Raiders films and even a bit in AMERICAN GRAFFITI!)) If (as these fans have suggested), Lucas deliberately tried to trash the film so that "no one would ever bother him about it again", he fell ridiculously short of that goal; fans holding very different opinions of what happened on screen have gone to see ROTJ repeatedly. Considering this film's popularity, I was surprised to hear that anyone believes ROTJ "pleased just about no one". To answer your question, I don't know why GL ended the trilogy as he did, but my guess is that he did want to please a wide audience, and that he succeeded in doing so. As for those he didn't please, those who truly hated the film, I'm sorry. Sincerely, without sarcasm, I hope I never have the experience of waiting years for a film, only to find that I'm completely disappointed with it.

I loved ROTJ, but like nearly everyone else, I'd had my own ideas of how the trilogy would end. I'd hoped to learn more about the Jedi Knights' destruction, hoped to see more of Yoda, and hoped to learn more about Han's past. I'd assumed that Han would be "the other", that Boba Fett would be a major character, and I'd never expected Luke and Leia to be siblings. I'd been strictly a Hanfan, but when I'd seen the ROTJ trailer and had seen "the kid" grown up to be a Jedi Knight, my glands cried out for a strong rivalry between Luke and Han, over Leia. I'd hoped Leia would mirror my own sudden attraction to Luke and have love scenes with both guys. I don't know how I'd have broken such a triangle...but alas! the problem was solved and my hopes were dashed when Obi-Wan opened his Big Mouth.

Yet despite all this, I loved ROTJ. I've seen it 22 times and would gladly pay to see it 20 more. It's not the story I'd have told, but it wasn't my story to tell, and what I saw on screen, despite my preconceived notions, was a great story that left me feeling thrilled and satisfied.

I can sympathise with those who didn't like ROTJ, but I hope that after all this time, these disappointed fans are doing something more constructive than theorizing on why GL failed to satisfy them. A/U endings and "What If" speculations interest me much more than a list of grievances.

Mary Keever: Like you, I bought the SW IV magazine, expecting idiocy, and I enjoyed it for the idiocy it was. Have you ever seen the SW "Special" magazine, claiming that aliens had persuaded GL to tell their story? It was filled with pix from ANH, some offered as "evidence" of alien participation in the making of the film. On the last page, there was a shot of the Vader-Kenobi duel, captioned "During a break, Alec Guinness takes lessons using the lightsaber, from alien dressed in Darth Vader's costume."

Cheree: Thanks for answering my question about characters wars in ST fandom. I kinda suspected that other fandoms had their share of people yelling MY DADDY FAVORITE CHARACTER CAN BEAT YOURS.

Marlene Karkoska: We have no proof that Threepio and his metal brethren are sentient, but the very existence of a Droids' Rights Issue suggests that they are. Someone in the SW universe thinks so and has obviously made a lot of noise about it. Even Luke, isolated on Tatooine, had been aware of the issue and, apparently, he'd been in favor of granting certain rights to droids. In the novelization of ANH, when the cantina bartender insisted the droids wait outside, Luke had realized that "this wasn't the time or place to force the issue of 'droid rights'". This implies that Luke would have forced the issue under different circumstances. (Had he forced the issue then and there, drawing attention to the two droids, he'd have jeopardized his life, Kenobi's and the Rebellion, itself.) Threepio addressing Luke as "sir" is an acknowledgment of Luke's superior legal status; there's no reason to assume that it was Threepio's denial of his own sentience. Servants/slaves ordinarily do address their masters by honorifics. In science fiction, "man-made" doesn't always equal "non-sentient". SF is replete with sentient androids, robots and computers. SW droids may or may not be sentient, but let's not slam the door on a strong possibility that they are.

This doesn't mean that I condemn Luke for lying to Threepio. Here, you are absolutely right. It requires a double standard to condemn Luke, then excuse/justify Obi-Wan and Yoda for their deceit. I don't condemn any of the three; I think they exercised sound judgment.

True, no one's ever ready to hear that his father's a monster, but consider this: Luke had barely known Obi-Wan when he'd asked, "How did my father die?" There's been no guarantee that Luke would've believed Obi-Wan's side of the story; no guarantee that Luke wouldn't have gone off to learn his father's side of the story. Luke had never seen Vader; he'd never had first-hand experience with Vader's evil and it's likely that Luke's hatred of the Empire was a second-hand emotion based on hearsay. Luke had had no reason to automatically accept that Obi-Wan's crippling of Anakin had been justified and he'd had strong emotional reasons to seek out his father and ask his side of the story. Kenobi

would've been a first class fool to presume that he, practically a stranger, could have claimed Luke's loyalty against Luke's dreams of an absent father.

By TESB, Luke had seen Vader's and the Empire's evil. He'd known his teachers longer and I agree that they should've told him the truth before he'd left Dagobah. Here, their sound judgment reversed into stupidity. I can't imagine what made these two--ordinarily--intelligent beings even hope that Vader would keep the truth to himself. Even if they hadn't known that Luke and Vader would meet, they should've taken the precaution of telling Luke the truth, before he'd left. But they didn't tell him and that, I agree, was a big mistake. Their second mistake was underestimating Luke; they'd expected to lose him.

You're right to point out that Luke's ordeal on Bespin could've destroyed him. He'd lost a hand, learned that Vader was his father and, from his point of view, he'd been betrayed by his teachers. He'd had every reason to doubt all he'd been taught, yet he'd been willing to die for his own belief in the Light. I agree with your statement in a previous letter: "What more did Yoda and Obi-Wan want?" It does seem strange that Yoda hadn't acknowledged Luke as a Jedi, when Luke had returned to Dagobah. Stranger still that Yoda and Obi-Wan would send Luke to face Vader, after having agreed that only a fully trained Jedi Knight with the Force as his ally would conquer Vader and his Emperor. Strangest of all, that Yoda would tell Luke that he wasn't a Jedi "yet", then die in peace, leaving Luke to restore the Jedi Order. "What more did Yoda and Obi-Wan want?" Maybe they just wanted Luke to do what they'd said only a Jedi could do--take on Vader and stop Palpatine. Maybe they'd wanted it badly enough to lie twice.

Michelle Malkin: Lots to say, here... First, I'm looking forward to your story in PERFECT FUSION, in which members of the Alliance fear that Luke and/or the new Jedi Order will create more problems than they solve. Second, I'd love to see on all-Darkside SW zine. Dark droids? Yes, I think it's possible, even probable, assuming that droids are sentient. IG-88 didn't look very Lightside to me. I have no objection to seeing any character presented as a darksider in A/U fiction, and I'd love to see a Dark Yoda! ((Ed's note: Stay tuned for A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #3, in which we'll premiere "The Dark Side of the Force", an all Darkside zine-within-a-zine. We already have short stories and vignettes by Mickey Malkin, Robin White and Gail Small, with art promised by Jenni Hennig and Ye Ed! -- Hey, it's my letterzine. I can plug my own stuff if I want to--so there!))

On prejudice against clones: Whether or not the stormtroopers are clones, I don't think they'll be welcomed by communities that suffered under Imperial rule. I think many ex-troopers will try to conceal the fact that they'd served in the Imperial military. Marlene Karkoska has suggested that the Imperials should be given a place in the new government, but how many will want a place among their former enemies? This may or may not appeal to high-ranking Imperials, depending on the individual, but what about the ex-stormtrooper who's looking for the non-government job, a place to live in peace? New Republic law may say that ex-troopers must receive fair treatment, but hatred usually manages to circumvent law. I see hard times ahead for the average ex-Imperial. Assuming ex-troopers are ill-treated, how will their former leaders react? (I'd

like to hear views on this from Imperial fans, as well as from Alliance-side fans.) On the other hand, is it possible that many worlds were, and remain, pro-Empire? Will ex-stormtroopers flock to these worlds and will these worlds view the Alliance as conquerors, not liberators?

Michelle, you're right about Ben Kenobi's age. I tend to see human SW characters as sharing our limited Earth/human lifespan, but with SW technology, that's not necessarily so.

I hadn't meant to suggest that Kenobi had been the only Jedi who'd served in Alderaan's military. I'd meant that Jedi had been free to join the military of any Republic world, and that many (perhaps most) had done so, during the Clone Wars. Of course, there's no reason to think that the Jedi Order hadn't had its own military branch and that Kenobi had served Bail Organa by commanding a Jedi army sent to defend Alderaan. That would certainly eliminate some of the problems I'd imagined a Jedi would've had with divided loyalties. Operating from my theory (not "mine" in the sense of originality; Danaline Bryant had mentioned it in an earlier issue of SE), a Jedi might've found himself caught between a commander's orders and Jedi ethics. I'd wondered if such a situation might've contributed to Anakin's fall.

Bail Organa, Secret Jedi...? Sounds like a preview of Character Wars, Part Two... Seriously, I'd never considered this possibility, but since you and Tim Blaes have brought it up, I've given it some thought. We have no on-screen evidence against it, and I thought Tim's suggestion that Bail had taught Leia "mind games" might help to explain her resistance to the mind probe in ANH. My only question would be, why would Bail have received Jedi training, secretly, at a time when the Jedi had been a respected, legally-recognized organization?

We have slightly different views of the Jedi, but thankfully, neither of us seems prepared to... er, live or die by statements made in a SW letterzine. Rest assured, mortal combat doesn't appeal to me very much, either, but be careful what you say; there may be folks who believe that the Southern Enclave is not to be travelled lightly...

MORE ON TWINS

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July 5, 1985

Marlene Karkoska: (Barb) I can agree by and large with your comments about Imperials being included in any new Republican Government. However, we would want to be careful about who we include. It would avoid later embarrassment (to say the least) such as the U.S. government is now experiencing over its having given aid to several infamous Nazis

after WWII. As recent events have shown, reconciliation is possible, but it should not be forgotten what was done in the name of the Empire, and by whom. I also agree with Chris Callahan's remarks about the subject.

On the subject of droids, there might be room for argument as to how much their personality (I'm thinking of R2 and 3PO) is programmed, and how much develops on its own. Certainly they have a lot of the quirks and foibles we associate with people. They are also capable of independent thought; 3PO got the idea to hide from the stormtroopers on Mos Eisley and R2 took it upon himself to fix the hyperdrive on the Falcon in Empire. It seems to me that Luke sees both of them as equals, he doesn't treat them like machines. I think he told R2 the whole rescue plan, and R2 chose not to tell 3PO, for reasons of his own. If we ever develop mechanical beings on this level, we might have to face the question of whether or not they have rights.

Thanks for your compliments of Han. They are much appreciated. I think you have a very good attitude. (Cheree--I used to be strictly a reader [and how] but in the last few years I've had things published, mostly poetry from time to time.)

If you want somebody to talk rationally about Harrison and WITNESS, you've got the wrong person.

Terri Black: (Pam) I wonder if the word disdain isn't a bit strong. I wonder if you should be looking at the committee that did the scheduling of the Trilogy? I believe I was told that the LA Con had both the Hugos and the movies on the same night. I was also told that the movies weren't shown until after the Hugos anyway, sometime around midnight. The Denvention committee, however, had the Hugos one night and the SW/TESB presentation the next night. No muss, no fuss, no heads beating against the walls. It boils down to whether you feel a duty to see the Hugos or go see a possible once in a lifetime event of all three movies together. If you wanted to do both that night, I guess you were out of luck. I think LA Con made a judgmental error.

Sally: (Pam) I don't know, it might have been a riot. We probably would sound like Sparkie, Bubba, Smokie, and gang from that new beer commercial.

Barbara Tennison/Tim Blaes: (Barb) I also think popular terminology would consider twins of whatever type as having the same set of parents. I was not familiar with the scientific definitions before, and this is what I interpreted Kenobi's statement to mean. As you say, anything is possible, but my personal feeling is that Luke and Leia are fraternal twins and thus have the same parents.

Maybe we can put Palpatine's taunting of Luke down to a case of massive overconfidence (as Luke pointed out). He had Luke where he wanted him (or so he thought) so why be subtle?

(Pam) Back on Dagobah Ben tells Luke "The Other he spoke of (Yoda) is your twin sister." Luke and Leia aren't identical and they aren't siamese; it really doesn't leave us much choice, that's two of the three types. My curiosity was sparked and I looked up a book called The Biology of Twinning in Man by M.S. Bulmer. It's a little technical, but a prior grounding in basic human biology or physiology will do you. The author mentions 5 types of twinning and even details how they would form. Get this, Tim, 3 types are by splitting an egg before fertilization. Hooked? Well, the postulate of a third type of twinning doesn't work when tested. All three types of twins produced before an egg is fertilized won't produce viable individuals. Only one type of splitting called dispermatic may meld

back with the other egg at a critical stage and produce an individual known as mosaic. This individual shows characteristics of 2 sperm cells having been present. While I'm on this subject, put your brain on the rack, Tim; I'd be very interested in reading that article you spoke of if it's updated and not a rehash of the above research. You ask what sort of twins would Luke and Leia be if they had two different fathers? They wouldn't. According to the same book, it had always been assumed that siblings born at the same time were fraternal twins, same mother and father. Blood tests in some instances however have shown these "twins" had different fathers and were in fact no closer than "half-sibs". Fertilization of two eggs by two different males is thought to be very rare. He could only come up with two documented cases in 147 years. It doesn't mean that it can't be a little more common than that, but it seems very odd that he didn't cite more cases since he is big on statistics and medical surveys.

Anyway, regardless of whether you believe them to be twins or half-sibs, same father or not, it doesn't change their relationship. Either way they still come out being brother and sister.

Elsie Bartok: Han might be expected to be an enemy of the Empire if he were operating outside the laws, and drummed out of the service to boot. He said he did not believe in the Force, not that he didn't know what it was. He might respect the Wookiees' beliefs and practices without following them himself.

Yes, Han is a brilliant pilot, and he may be Force sensitive, thus it works through him without conscious thought. But that is not the same as saying that he is a Jedi. I was prepared to accept him as such, but I honestly don't feel that he is.

No doubt there are a number of commanders, but only one Jedi extant that I know of. Poor Luke, not only is he "a dime a dozen", but he's expendable as well. The belief that commanders outrank generals was an honest mistake, which has since been corrected. On the other hand, if this universe has asteroids that are close together, faster than light travel, and noises in space, it may have a different command structure too.

The explanation of Luke and Leia's twinship was an idea, and a good one. An interesting note: if Luke and Leia are 18 and 16 respectively at the time of SW, and there is a three year gap to TESB, then they should be 21 and 19 respectively. However the Empire gum cards put Luke at 22 and Leia at 20; the Mediascene issue of Empire put Luke at 23 and Leia in her "early 20's". In the novel, Luke is said to be 23. He seems to have picked up a couple of years somewhere.

Yes, I understand what Barbara Izzo was talking about. I interpret "Keep your distance", and "Fly casual" differently than you do.

Speaking for myself, I don't see Luke as a "shining, perfect hero". Not even Han can lay claim to that title. But he is a hero, no question about it, and he should receive the credit due him for his accomplishments as a person and a Jedi.

Jean Stevenson: (Barb) I think Leia's love for Luke (and his for her) is a major factor in enabling him to resist falling to the dark and accomplishing what he set out to do. Far from being removed from her influence, I think it is very much with him.



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July 26, 1985

As you know, though I am definitely not a new fan, I am relatively new to fandom. This is my first letter to a zine of any kind and I'm a little nervous about writing in the company of so many of you who've known one another and written for years, but, faint heart, etc., so here goes.

First, I'd like to thank you for the explanation of the absence in #7 of the Ladies Brin, Corbett & Stevenson. Having kept up with SE for several months now, I really would have missed them and wondered where they were. Thanks again.

I enjoyed Annie Wortham's article very much. I'd heard before that Mr. Hamill's dancing style was similar to Cagney's (I love him, too, Annie). "Yankee Doodle Dandy" has been one of my favorites since I was a child.

Lin Ward: Enjoyed your comments about Luke's nick-name. I also cringe when I hear "Wormie". How about this theory? On Tatooine, worms are huge, ugly, unmanageable critters and Luke was so named for his aptitude in handling them. Therefore "Wormie" refers to Luke's powers and abilities. Yay! Reaching, huh? Well, maybe, but I like it.

I happen to enjoy all forms of science fiction and was horrified to read about the divisions in fandom with regard to media-fen. It's hard enough to deal with so-called "normal" friends who criticize one for one's fandom interests without having the general sci-fi public doing the same because of one's interest in a certain subdivision of the same group! And now I find that not only is there a rift between media fen and other general sf fen, but some people even dislike one another for their favoritism for certain characters within the same film! Phooie!

Marlene Karkoska: Re your remarks about the downfall of the Jedi--I agree with you that Darth Vader was the only Jedi who actively participated, but instead of actually coming in and destroying them all himself, I wonder if he may have, by using the Dark Side, managed to turn them against one another and set them to fighting amongst themselves until they were in such a state of confusion and turmoil and it was a simple matter for Darth and his men to step in and wipe them out in one fell swoop. I also believe that the Jedi were destroyed from without, not within. As far as your comments on Ben and Yoda's withholding the truth of Luke's parentage from him and the aftermath of same, I couldn't have said it better--or even as well. Thanks! Of course, the Saga would not have been nearly as exciting that way.

Cheree: In answer to your editorial comment in Michelle Malkin's letter about the humor in Han's "I know" line; I think the humor comes in thusly. It's not actual "ha-ha, ain't that funny" but the sort of smiling affectionate indulgency one feels for a well-loved person who reacts to a situation in his own inimitable fashion, rather than in the way most folks would. Every time I see that scene I smile, shake my head and think, "Oh, Han. I know what you mean, but does she?" Anyhow, that's how it strikes me.

Michelle Malkin: Re your remarks about Dark Side immunity--just exactly right! It may be easier to fight the darkness within once one has seen it and knows its face, but the temptations are always

there! By the way, Michelle, being rather new to fandom, I only recently have read the back issues of KESSEL RUN (thanks to a very kind Jenni H.). Can't tell you how very impressed I was and how very horrified to then discover you had stopped publication. Are ya really sure you wanna do that?

Barbara Tonnison: I, too, have wondered how someone intelligent and powerful enough to rise to absolute rulership of an entire galaxy could be stupid enough to egg Luke on to the Dark, thereby causing him (Luke) to stop short. Most folks operate on "the harder you push, the firmer I'll stand" level. Really liked your explanation. By the way, I have to display my ignorance for all to see, but what does RAEBNC mean? On age differences, maybe Leia's home, Alderaan, has a longer year than Luke's home, Tatooine, so she would have had fewer actual birthdays.

Marcia Brin: Re your comments on 3PO's caring and generous nature, worrying about the others, etc., it's my understanding that these things are programmed into him. He has no choice but to react the way he does. Marlene K.'s letter in #8 says it so much better than I can--3PO and R2D2, no matter how intelligent, independent, and adorable, ain't people, they're droids.

If I might herein insert my 2 cents' worth concerning the Luke-Han debates currently raging. I love all the Star Wars characters dearly, but Luke is dearest to my heart. This, however, does not mean I automatically cannot love Han too--only that he takes 2nd place to my favorite Jedi. Marcia, you said in your last letter something to the effect that when Luke does it, it's magic, but when Han does it "he must satisfy some scientific/common-place/ordinary reason". I look at it this way: yes, Luke uses magic. It states very clearly in the books and movies that he is a Jedi and has special magical powers that most do not possess. The books and movies do not say the same of Han (not in so many clear and undeniable words, anyhow). I am not one to absolutely deny the possibility that Han may have Force-ability, but until George Lucas (whom I still admire greatly, by the way) tells me so, I believe Han is a very gifted, intelligent, empathic man who acts on his instincts, usually coming out on top, but who cannot intentionally and actively use the Force as Luke does.

I know it has probably been said before, but my personal opinion is that Luke was not actively a part of the military after Bespin and just retained the honorary rank of Commander. I do think Luke acquired a little flavor of the Dark about him but (dare I say it?) this only adds to his charm for me.

Elsie Bartok: In your letter you mention "Lucas' bio of Han". I have never seen this bio. Did Lucas do one for all the characters? Is it in an interview or what? Would you mind letting me know where I could find a copy? I'd really like to see it and any others there might be. Re Marquand's statement about everyone in the film being disguised, perhaps Han's "disguise" as well as Luke's are when they are pretending to be carrying supplies to Endor on the Imperial shuttle. I have read several times that Luke says "Thank you" to Han at the end of Jedi, but for the life of me, after 2-3 recent viewings, I just don't see it. What is Luke supposed to be thanking Han for anyhow? As far as Luke leaving without his "C.O.'s" permission, this doesn't seem to be brought up in the movie. Leia doesn't say, "But you can't go without Han's consent." Han doesn't say, "Where the hell's Luke--how dare he, etc.". This leads me to believe that Luke

is along because he chooses to be, as his own man (or Jedi) and is not under anyone's command. I shudder to think what might have happened had he not left.

I didn't have any problems with ROTJ. In fact, I am one of the apparently very few people who loved it tremendously--every bit as much as Star Wars and more than Empire. I think everybody was absolutely, wonderfully, perfect and I thank GL from the bottom of my heart for what he's given us. (But what have you done lately, George?)

Maggie Nowakowska: Enjoyed your letter. Since I missed most of the Robin Hood episodes, I was delighted to have your Light/Dark explanations.

Jean Stevenson: Enjoyed your Arthurian/SW comparisons, especially was interested to learn the French equivalent of Lancelot. I have intended to write a few paragraphs re the Luke begging subject, but you said most of it for me. "Luke has possible aid at hand, so he called on it." Thanks, Jean. In addition, it is my view that Luke, in asking for his father's help was not only seeing his own death, but that of his sister, his dearest friends, and everything he had spent the last few years of his life working toward. Not to mention the final damnation of his father. Re your comment about the twins' mother possibly being a surrogate to one of them--very interesting idea. All in all, Jean, a really interesting and thought-provoking letter. Thanks again.

Cheree, I handwrote this letter over several days and had no idea how really long it was until I typed it up. Forgive me! I promise to (try) not to do it again. Til next time, peace, folks. And thanks for many long and enjoyable hours.

THE TRILOGY AT WORLDCON

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July 17, 1985

Lucky Anne Wortham! I wish I could've seen Mark in HARRIGAN 'N HART. I saw him in AMADEUS when the show came to LA and that was fantastic. The photos of MWC were fun, Cheree. It's a great idea for a yearly feature.

Like Mary Keever, I think Han and Leia will live happily ever after. I know some feel that Han cannot settle down, but I don't see Leia "settling down" either; after all, she was a leader of a successful rebellion!

Rose Arnold: I got to see the trilogy at Worldcon and in Hollywood. I have to say that I enjoyed myself more at the latter showing. Although the Worldcon event was very exciting, it was a challenge to stay awake 'til the end (even this "night owl" starts to nod off after 4 a.m.). But the March showing was great. It put the fun back in the Saga for me. I'm one of those who was not thrilled with ROTJ at first. But instead of dwelling on the few things I would have done differently, I started to see all the great stuff Lucas gave us in this

story (sometimes depending on your point of view). I'm glad I made the extra effort to see the trilogy again (like working overtime so I could take the day off).

Marlene Karkoska: You gave the best reason why it was wise for Ben and Yoda to hold off telling Luke the truth about his father. Like you said, the information could have destroyed him, but instead he came out a stronger person. It was terrible to put Luke through this, but maybe it's true Luke wasn't ready to hear the truth. What if Ben told Luke about his father when they met in ANH? Luke would have wanted to go to Vader immediately. Ben could tell him that his father's troops killed Owen and Beru, but would Luke believe him? Luke just met this "wizard" and the people he might listen to--his uncle and aunt--are gone. So at this point, Vader could gain a willing student. Luke doesn't know anything about the Force, much less that there is a Light side and a Dark.

Michelle Malkin: I'm glad to hear about older fen. You mean we don't have to stop this fannish activity when we grow up?!

Tim Blaes: I think the hatred of cyborgs in the SW comic comes more from Marvel than from the Saga. I recognize the same sentiment in other titles, while the films show us a society that gets along fine with droids.

Marcia Brin: Whew! Just when I thought it was safe to read SE again...I was glad to see more and more people express my view on Luke and Han. I'm a Luke fan who has nothing against Han--I like him! I think your tirade, though, has taken us two steps backward in the Luke vs. Han argument.

You say that Luke fen are upset with GL because Luke didn't turn out to be the "perfect" hero. Well, I used to be upset with GL because of his treatment of Han! I had no problem with Luke in ROTJ (he was the best part of the movie), but I thought Han was shortchanged. I wanted this to be the perfect movie and how could that be if Luke is the only one with anything interesting to do. Han is important to the Saga, too. It took me awhile to see that a lot happens to Han in ROTJ. He's just not involved with anything as overt as a battle between the Light side and the Dark side of the Force.

Elsie Bartok: Yes, exactly! Han is in disguise, but it's not as elaborate as you seem to imply. Over the years, he has learned not to trust others too easily. So he doesn't allow people to get close enough to really get to know him. Luke is an open book from the time we meet him, but we only see one side of Han in ANH. As he spends more time with the Alliance, we get to know a more complex man during TESB. Then at the beginning of ROTJ, Han realizes that Luke and Leia really do care for him. He knows he can trust them and so the real Han appears by the end of ROTJ.

Of the summer movies, I've seen THE GOONIES, COCCON, and BACK TO THE FUTURE. THE GOONIES was lots of fun and the kids were great, but it was just a junior version of INDIANA JONES. As for COCCON, I expected too much because of all the terrific reviews. There's nothing bad about this movie, except that it's so...nice! My favorite so far this summer is BACK TO THE FUTURE. I don't remember a time travel movie in which the future was actually changed, though.

By the way, has anyone else noticed that Canadian singer, Corey Hart, could pass for a member of Harrison Ford's family? Gorgeous!

I hope everyone is having a great summer! Clear skies!

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I liked the photos from this year's MediaWest. Do you plan to print anymore? Might send you one of myself, assuming I can find one worth printing. May send you one of T'Poww [Tim's cat] instead.

Mary Kever: That SW IV magazine probably had "Star Invaders" somewhere on the cover, didn't it? They sporadically publish various movie rip-offs. They're almost totally bantha pucky, but sometimes you have to admire their style. "Ghostbusters II: Ghosts in Space" and Eddie Murphy was to be included in the cast. But in that same rag was a very interesting article on scenes that were scripted but not filmed or filmed and cut from the series STAR TREK, and their "Terminator II" ran photos and dialog from a scene that was later totally redone from ST:TMP. They also, much to my delight, did a small feature on Kirstie Alley, although I wish they hadn't been so crass as to bill her on the cover as "Spock's Girlfriend--Playboy Bunny." I wouldn't take any projections by these people seriously, but I'm sure Sybil Danning could seduce Darth to the Dark any day of the week, and I think she'd make a damn good Terminator.

Lin S. Ward: CINEMAGIC, a magazine for backyard Spielbergs, has recently started appearing in some bookstores. In one section it lists amateur and student films completed or in production. Some of them look really interesting. You could program a whole convention with films like these.

Marlene D. Karkoska: It is perfectly true that the Rebel Alliance will need the help of some Imperials. This is one of the reasons I'd like to see Leia become Empress; the Empire must be taken over, not overthrown.

Regarding your comments about droids and their place in society, research into Artificial Intelligence suggests that it will someday be possible to create a machine that thinks, makes creative decisions, and be indistinguishable in conversation from a human being. A computer like this will be considerably different from your Apple or microwave. Just how are you going to deal with such a computer? You may own it, but in some countries women and children are considered property. A difference that makes no difference is no difference; a truly sentient mechanical would be a free-thinking, growing, changing, learning individual. How any of us will deal with such computers and robots is something we will find out only when we have to.

This is not to say that I disapprove of Luke's treatment of C3PO. It was tactically a wise move to place the droids in their position. R2 clearly understood what his role was and I still think he was supposed to tell 3PO but didn't.

To Dark Side Zine or not to Dark Side Zine. Well, let me put it this way, I would read a DS zine, but I'm not sure I would buy one. And, although I think I could help plot a DS Leia story, I don't think I'm a good enough writer to pull it off. Of course, a DS zine could print stories that focus on the characters' dark side without them actually falling to the Dark Side.

Michelle Malkin: I'll be going to the Atlanta WorldCon and I'll be wearing various media-related T-shirts. If anybody gives me any lip, I'll be glad to instruct them where they can insert their attitude.

I don't remember any "virulent anti-Han" letters in JW. I do remember some flak over whether

Han was a pirate or not, a debate confused by different ideas/images of what a pirate is--Errol Flynn or Blackbeard. And I was never anti-romance, though I was pro-action/adventure. I merely protested the constant acclaim of Harlequin Romance clones. And I didn't fizzle away on this issue; the Harlequin retreads did (for the most part, anyway).

Ye Editor: I can't speak for anyone else, but I am in fandom for the characters. I just want to see them do something. A story with no plot does a disservice to the characters everybody says they care so much about. Take a good look at SW fan-fic as a whole and you'll see that most of it goes nowhere, or over the same ground again and again. Romance, action-adventure, mystery, horror, humor; STAR WARS/EMPIRE/JEDI had elements of all of these, and undoubtedly others I've overlooked. It is a pity that SW fan-fic is so imbalanced.

If most of the women fans are in fandom(s) just for the hunks, then they remind me of the person who goes to a 31-flavor ice cream parlor and orders vanilla. Sure, Leia and Saavik I find attractive and fascinating. I can leech, too, can't I? But somehow I just can't Mary Sue myself into a love interest for either of these women. I've tried, and I'll probably try again, but it just doesn't feel right when I attempt it.

You women-folk talk about the female to male imbalance in fandom, but I don't think any of you are really bothered by it. None of you are beating the bushes looking for us men. After all, why should you?

The print of ROTJ that I saw this summer was a hunk of junk. Half the reels were scratched almost beyond recognition; it looked like it was raining in the Emperor's throne room. The remaining reels suffered from dropped-out color, everything looking a dull bluish with very little bright color. Whatever happened to Lucasfilm's vow to upgrade theater standards?

Barb Tennison: Have I heard Queen's "39"? Is Dagobah wet? I bought my first Queen album, A NIGHT AT THE OPERA, soon after seeing SW. I caught the lightspeed time disparity angle right off. I am N.C.'s #1 Queen fan (until I can find another, anyway).

Ye Ed again: I wouldn't mind seeing a new JONNY QUEST, with Jonny and Hadji on their own as young adults. But they'd probably do it live-action, like they plan to do with THE JETSONS. And I remember watching THE HERCULEIDS thinking, wow, this has nothing to do with Earth! Neat!

Marcia Brin: Listing 3PO's charitable qualities bears no poor reflection on Luke. His reaction to 3PO when the droid told him to go on in ANH was hardly callous. And Luke's concern for R2 after he was spat out by the swamp monster did not suggest disinterest ("Anything broken?").

The SW universe may indeed be mostly "magical", but I'm not too impressed with your use of this aspect in most of your arguments. "Well, folks, either it's a magical universe or not" smacks of a pat answer for any inconsistency. C3PO isn't a dwarf or a hobbit or an elf; he is a robot and he must work under mechanical principals.

As long as you're bringing up the Tarot, TESB depicted Luke in a very blatant Tarot image--the Hanged Man. The image is not reversed and my book list its divinatory meaning as "Surrender to a higher Being causes a reversal in one's way of life. In spiritual matter, wisdom, prophetic power, self-sacrifice. May also mean suspended decisions, a pause in one's life." Emphasis mine. A fairly

succinct and complimentary description of Luke's development after TESB.

Since Luke and Han are not similar people with similar backgrounds, it would be illogical to assess them by the same standards. Luke has been established as a Force-user and Han has not. As for piloting ability, Luke's performance over the Death Star need not be attributed to his then budding Force potential. You seem to be saying that if anyone in the saga does anything exceptional, it must be attributed to the Force.

You constantly insist that Luke has been over-endowed, or "godhead" as you put it, in SW fan-fic. An odd statement about a Han-dominated fandom. Name names, Brin. List some of these atrocious stories. I suspect that any story where Luke actually manages to succeed in his goals would seem distorted to you.

I object to your twisting of my words. I said that you concluded that your interpretation was the same as GL's or that you would consider him a jerk. I never said that GL was a jerk, although the vagueness of that second sentence was deliberate. First, you insist that your analysis came straight from GL's mouth and now you cop to the fact that he might not see things the way you do, and that all of us see things from our own certain point of view. This is part of what I've been trying to tell you, all this time.

Lucas' quote about Luke's "final turn to the bad side" was vague and of unclear context. The special that it appeared in was constructed to sell the movie, not to probe Lucas' intentions. I want to see the unedited interview. As for Luke's dark clothing, I thought that it was clear that this can mean a variety of things. Not only has GL said that Luke's duds in ROTJ were more Jedi-like, the first McQuarrie portfolio states that Vader is dressed in black, not to denote evil, but to make him more mysterious. "Luke is the one with the problems." The hero of the story usually does; if they didn't have problems, how could they overcome them and be heroic?

I do not dislike GL, and I don't believe the people you label "Luke fans" dislike him either. But I don't exactly consider him the omnipotent filmmaker who produces flawless masterpieces. And then there is this bit about his "brilliance" being evidence for placing Han on a level far above all other characters. Lucas seems so far behind the scenes these days. He doesn't do much hands-on filmmaking anymore.

While levelling accusations of ethical wrongdoing against those who oppose your attitudes, you should examine your own behavior. Your "litmus test" paragraph directly implies that those who do not support you are morally deficient. When you point a finger at me and others, you point three right back at yourself.

First you say that you are not playing a game, then you turn right around and say, "That's your job" to defend Luke. It sure sounds to me as if you regard this as a contest, or rather a courtroom battle. But this isn't a courtroom; this is fandom, and the investigation is being conducted by the jury. You were asked to take a close look at Luke and see something other than the flaws you perceive. Your reply indicates that you are incapable of seeing Luke as a total, complicated human being. You were not asked to change ideas, just to look at the other side of the coin.

If Elsie Bartok wants to see a perfect example of a personal attack, she should simply look at her own first paragraph. It, and a good part of your

letter, was incredibly rude, hostile and abrasive.

What was Han's disguise in Jabba's palace? Why, he was disguised as a wall hanging, of course. Whether Wookiees have a strong Force inclination or not has no bearing on Han's Force ability or lack of it.

I am positive that Han would have been given a thorough medical examination when he got back to the fleet. I'm sure Leia would have insisted on it, even if he hadn't volunteered for a mission. It doesn't matter if he had Force-sight or not, if there had been any damage to his eyes, it could have been detected. Oh, it was nice of you to bring to my attention that, if Lando hadn't warned Han that he was about to blow his head off, Lando might not have been in the rest of the film. If Han needed any instruction on aiming his blaster, then that shoots down any Han-the-blind-Force-user theory.

I can see a clear attempt by both Brin and Bartok to polarize fandom. They try to make this look like "Luke fen vs. Han fen", i.e. Them and Us. Sorry, you two, but there is no conspiracy. The majority of SW fans simply do not agree with you and/or do not really care. Don't assume that a "Han fan" automatically supports your views; I certainly don't assume they do.

Maggie Nowakowska: If all the Jedi who were slaughtered during the Purge went *poof* and turned into day-glo spooks, then why were there not more of them kibbitzing while Luke was on Dagobah? In terms of interacting with the living, just how effective are these blue ghosts? Do you have to be of a certain level before you become one of the Grateful Dead?

Melody Corbett: George Lucas made the film he wanted to make in JEDI. He has said that JEDI was the most satisfying of the three. What Lucas wanted and what we wanted are not always the same thing. I just wish that he'd paid more attention to his characters than to the SFX.

Jean Stevenson: While I do not think IJATTOD was a bad film, I didn't think it was all that great, either. I only saw it once. I did enjoy Rts much, much more. Strange/exotic/dangerous people and places are the staple of adventure films. ((Ed's note: A really good "little" adventure film hardly anyone seems to have seen is NATE AND HAYES starring Tommy Lee Jones. It rips off every adventure movie you've ever seen in your life and has a great time doing it! I highly recommend it!)) Third World countries may indeed contain more than drug dealers, military dictators, and peasant folk, but there are nevertheless plenty of all three in such places. They could have focused on Colombia's other major industries, but I think JOAN WILDER AND THE TOURIST TRAP OF DOOM (or maybe RAIDERS OF THE GOLD-EN COFFEE BEANS??) wouldn't have done as well at the box office. Me, I don't see all that much actual similarity between these two films.

I think I can understand what you have to say about Luke's screaming/begging/whatever. Luke is a young man, Jedi or otherwise, and morality is not something he takes casually. But somehow I just don't worry about it very much. Unlike others, I have no fear that he is incapable of learning. In fact, I have the greatest confidence that he will develop into a splendid Jedi, even if he is a bit inexperienced now.

Yes, I think SW is both a "we" and an "I" story. The strongest groups are made of individuals. Some people are loners, who don't do very well except when on their own. Other types thrive on the group effort. Both Luke and Han started out with one

attitude and found out that they work better with the other.

The most common overall description of the SW saga has been that of an onion. May I suggest another? SW is a Rubic's Cube. But George has moved several of the components around so that, no matter how wildly we twist at this thing, we will never be able to "solve" it.

I don't think the Emperor was half as powerful as he may at first seem. He constantly makes predictions that don't come true. He also failed to detect Luke's presence on Endor. Vader killed him by simply throwing him down a shaft. (I wonder why Vader did that, instead of slicing him into luncheon meat with his lightsaber? It would have been so much quicker.)

A lot of good films have come out this year, so many that I haven't seen a lot of them yet. COCOON hasn't gotten here yet, but I'm confident that it'll be worth the wait. BACK TO THE FUTURE is the best film of the year. My mother usually walks out of the theater with lukewarm reactions or an inability to admit she likes most of the films I take her to; this time she clearly had a ball. Probably had something to do with her growing up in the '50's. I spotted one "flaw": if George McFly ended up being a SF writer, why is it that his house looks like something out of Better Homes & Gardens? Not so much as a Freas print on the wall. I'm not saying that he should have posters all over the walls and paperbacks scattered about, but I swear his home looks like a rich mundane.

EXPLORERS comes a close second, so far. I like the three kids a lot; I wish I had friends like that when I was their age. But I wish the Lori Swenson character had been involved from the start, yet I understand that they clipped out a lot of her scenes. Charlie Drake was a fascinating add-on that they fumbled; he could have been the proof that adults can dream, too, but instead he came off as a little weird. There were so many things about this movie that were unexplored (pun intended) that I suspect they were planning too much ahead for a sequel...or a TV series. The Thunder Road must fly again!

LIFEFORCE probably isn't the cup of tea for most of you. Me, I like things like gothic spaceships, "walking shrivelleds", and London burning in the wake of a "vampire" infestation. Lest you think it was the nubile Space Vampire who held my attention the most, you are at least partially right. I had never before considered that nudity could be so...malevolent. If Mathilda May approaches me in her birthday suit, I don't think I'll stick around to kiss her.

MAD MAX, BEYOND THUNDERDOME: Neither Auntie Entity or Master/Blaster came off totally good or evil. I like that, although I think I sympathize with Auntie's position. Bartertown may have been a wretched hive of scum and villainy, but it was "civilization", and what did Max do? He blew Bartertown half-way to hell and ran off with one of the people needed to help run/rebuild it. The Crack in the Earth kids were fantastic, especially Savana [spell?]. Dr. Dealgood should have had more to do.

Both THE TWILIGHT ZONE and AMAZING STORIES will probably be on the air by the time this gets printed. I want comments! I've always harbored a secret desire to be Rod Serling (anybody remember S*M*A*S*H?) and now Spielberg has a home for all the great ideas he can't stretch into a feature film.

Alright, this is what you've all been waiting for. The Return of the Bride of the Son of Cross-Universe Stories!!!

Mr. Ed meets Francis the Talking Mule; perhaps they are related. Maybe Ed is the son of Francis? ...No, that wouldn't work. ((Ed: Or vice versa?))

The Shadow vs. Cthulhu & Co; Lamont and Margo face off against the Dark Young of Shub-Niggurath.

Ming the Merciless vs. The Little Rascals. Really, I'm serious. Think about it. Ming wouldn't stand a chance. Spanky 'n Alfalfa Conquer the Universe.

James Bond meets Modesty Blaise; 'nuff said. (Do you think I could ever get away with naming a daughter of mine Modesty Blaes?)

Buckaroo Banzai vs. the Visitors; if anyone writes this one, send it to me immediately!!

I don't want to set the world on fire; I just want to light a flame in your heart...

HAS ANTENNAE, TOO!

Sally Smith
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July 29, 1985

Just a quick LoC this time as it's almost deadline, and my mother just informed me she's coming to visit in 2 weeks (aargh).

Annie: Lucky you, getting to see HARRIGAN 'N HART! The best I could do was get a playbill sent to me by a friend who also did. And I must confess to occasionally having antennae, too.

Mary K.: Did you buy that magazine with the SW parody, and if so, can I have some xeroxes?

Tim: Oh, shucks, gang, he's caught on to our human sacrifice plan. Actually, though, you made a slight error. We're really going to sacrifice you, then sell your kidneys, heart, etc. (shades of "Coma") so we can all afford to go to MediaWest next year!

Marcia: Re your comment on Luke fans, "I haven't met one that still likes GL." I get to disagree; you met me at Constellation. I can give you the names and address of others, too.

Jean: I liked the SW/Camelot analogy, especially the "adjustment of the triangle" so it has a happy ending. Nice. Also, good thought-provoking comments on IJATTOD vs. ROMANCING THE STONE.

At Westercon, I actually did NOT inflict bodily harm on Norman Spinrad (gasp--though tempted I was, yes). One day, I was wearing my Jedi costume and stared him straight in the eye, just daring him to make a comment or even have a disparaging expression on his face (go ahead, make my day). He looked away very quickly, so there. I also met some of the people who've written for the D&D cartoon series, and I think the reason some of you out there like it is because they are fans and Our Kind of People.

About Cheree's question regarding the ratio of creator/en to consumers, I am both, being an editor and writer. But no consumer/en should feel inferior about not contributing--without the folks who put

down the money, us zineds disappear!
And I liked WITNESS, too!

CULT OF THE TRUE IMPERIAL

Susan Henderson
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July 24, 1985

Such a richness of topics for discussion in your last issue! It looks as though SW fandom is alive and well; and long may it prosper!

Sally Syrjala touched on an idea that some of my friends and I have also been tossing around, to wit seeing the dark and light sides of the Force as yin and yang--opposites in balance--rather than good and evil. I wonder if Vader subscribed to the yin-yang theory? This would make him a heretic in the eyes of the Jedi, who clearly subscribe to the good-evil interpretation; perhaps Vader's real "crime" in their eyes was heresy. As for Vader not saying he's sorry for his past life, it could be that he doesn't think he has anything to be sorry for. He killed the Emperor to save his son's life; that doesn't necessarily mean he rejected his commitment to the Empire. One regrets again that Vader was never given a chance to explain his politics.

As to Luke's nickname "Wormie," I think Biggs, in the radio show, put his finger on the reason for it when he said, "You will make it off Tatooine, Luke. They know it. That's why they won't accept you." Luke's companions can't understand his longing for something greater than the narrow world of Anchorhead, and like many limited people, they make fun of what they can't understand.

Marlene Karkoska is quite right in observing that the new Republic will probably have to absorb some of the old Imperial officials. After all, too thorough a purge of the losing party will cause bitterness and prolong the civil war. The Restoration in England and the Confederation after the reconciliation benefitted from it. Besides, most civil servants think it's their duty to serve the public, no matter what party is in power, and the Imperials are probably no different from their terran counterparts. As an unreconstructed Impie, of course, I think we're burying the Empire much too soon. Suppose Palpatine's successor is not a Nero or a Caligula (as most fen seem to suppose), but a Catherine the Great or a Marcus Aurelius? The Empire could be in for a renaissance.

Speaking of the American Revolution, it's good to see some more history buffs out there! I didn't see 1776, but I heard the sound track, and "Molasses to Rum to Slaves" had a valid point. My favorite characters of the period (neither of whom were in the musical) are Nathan Hale and John Andre (let's hear it for the secret agents, folks!). Nathan Hale, by the way, also believed in equal education for women; how heartbreaking that such a man should die so young!

I hope I didn't come down too hard on Brayton and LaVasseur in "defending Piett's honor." When I

use that kind of rhetoric, it's almost always tongue in cheek. (One of the things that amuses me about SW is its turgid rhetoric, and sometimes I indulge in a little myself.) You and I have different ways of looking at the Empire, and both are tenable, the more so because we are given so little information about the Empire. For myself, I do not see any evidence for the Empire being corrupt. The Emperor, of course, is in an advanced state of senile dementia. Vader is certainly heavy-handed, but that is not the same thing as corruption. Tarkin does appear to be power-hungry, which is a form of corruption, especially if one goes by the radio show. We are told that Jerjerrod is corrupt, but nowhere are we given proof. This is typical of most of what we are told about the Empire. Allegations in plenty, but little proof. The information we get is filtered through the Rebels' point of view, and they are hardly disinterested observers.

The Cult of the True Imperial was a bit that I wrote for the late lamented Jundland Too; it seemed we had the Church of Ford and the Cathedral of Luke, and Sara Campbell's delightful Right Thinking Persons Who Are For Wedge (in the same zine), so I decided the Imperials simply must get in the game. The Articles of Faith are: 1) A True Imperial thinks the phrase "Rebel Scum" is a redundancy; 2) A True Imperial sees Admiral Akbar and Co. and thinks, "bouillabaisse"; 3) A True Imperial can't understand the controversy between the Church of Ford and the Cathedral of Luke because Luke deserves to be turned over his father's knee and Han deserves life plus 20. Really True Imperials can't tell Han and Luke apart because all Rebels look like to them. As you can see, we are an unregenerate lot. When we really want to snap the Rebels' garters, we tell them our worship service is a champagne breakfast followed by an Ewok shoot. The Ewoks are in no real danger, since everybody knows that Our Brave Clones At The Front can't hit the broad side of a barn.

Chris Callahan: I was under the impression that Imperial fen tended to be older than Rebel fen; perhaps I am wrong. It would be interesting to see a survey on the subject.

May the Force, etc....

MISUNDERSTANDING

Marcia Brin
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It appears that Cheree and I have both been victims of an accumulation of misunderstandings, starting with my original query to her. When I originally received no response to a private letter to her about the incident, I am afraid I assumed the worst "scenario", for which error I apologize. Cheree and I have, since the last issue of SE, corresponded about the matter and have, hopefully, put it to rest. Again, I apologize for any actions on my part that "added fuel to the fire."

I know I'm going to shock Mickey Malkin to flinders, but Mickey, I agree with you! (Catch that girl before she hits the floor!) Once about Han and once about Luke (though, and I will explain

myself later, I'm not sure why you feel the way you do on the Luke point).

As to Han, I agree that the "I know" was a lovely statement, with multi-levels (though I do think it was funnier than it strikes you). On one level, of course, it could be said to be "typically" Han Solo, and it is: the man who, until he comes out of carbon freeze, is so guarded of his emotions that he turns aside his own feelings with something designed to hide them (for those of you who have seen SILVERADO, there is a point at which the character of Paden, also penned by Lawrence Kasdan, uncomfortable with a story about him that is revealing too much, attempts to divert the listeners by making a joke about the story. A similar device for a character that is similar.) He certainly has trouble admitting to the world at large feelings he has had trouble admitting to himself. On another level, he is saying that she had not had to put it into words (though I suppose it is nice to hear!), he had, despite his inability to speak himself, trapped as he was by all those years of hiding and walling his emotions away, understood. It is only after release from carbon freeze, with all that vulnerability and uncertainty that his mask of arrogance had tried to conceal, that he begins to doubt what he thought he knew, to wonder if he had, indeed, misunderstood.

As to Luke, I agree with you that he has been wrestling with his Dark Side in ROTJ and that he appears to have finally recognized it and, perhaps, faced it down at the end of the film and, further, that he will be faced by repeated "challenges" by the Dark Side throughout his life. This is what I've been saying all along: I never said Luke had fallen or was doomed, or that he was a bad person. What I noted was that he had given the Dark a foothold on his soul and he was being driven by it to do things he would otherwise not do. That he had to face down this element of himself. IF he did not, yes, then it would doom him. Nor did I ever say that he had not recognized at least part of this at the end of ROTJ. My only uncertainty lay in the fact that the film ended five minutes later, so that we don't know how deeply this lesson has taken hold, or whether there will be "backsliding". That, however, is a story for the third trilogy, not this one.

I have also pointed out several times that Mickey's statement about having to remain on guard against the Dark the rest of his life is exactly what Yoda said. "Forever will it dominate your destiny." This didn't mean "fall", as some Luke fans have complained; if he meant "fall", he would have said so. No, he meant that it would always be a monkey on your back, something against which Luke would ever have to be on guard, that "the price of freedom" (from the Dark Side, that is) is eternal vigilance."

Those of you familiar with the Luke in my stories know I don't dislike the character; I simply don't like what he is doing and what his attitudes are in ROTJ. Again, I ask: haven't your parents ever criticized you or gotten angry with you for things you've done? Did it mean they didn't like you? Or that they liked you so much, they did not want to see you destroying yourself? To me, those fans who are more concerned with saving their private universes, spun up since ANH, than the actual characters as given to us in ROTJ, they are the ones who don't really give a damn about Luke, no matter how loudly they proclaim themselves to be Luke fans.

However, Mickey, what I can't figure out is how

you got there. I know how I did, but I can't figure out your route. I've been critical of Luke's behavior and attitudes, I see them as wrong, not because I think Luke is bad, but because I think that they are external manifestations of the internal problem, signs that, for a time, the Dark Side of Luke was propelling events. You, on the other hand, have been saying that everything Luke has done has been right, that I was wrong in my criticism. You haven't, in fact, been critical of anything Luke has done in ROTJ. Well, then, if Luke has done everything right, if his behavior has been good, kind, sweet, pure of heart and moral, then where on earth do you see any signs of a Dark Side struggle? Where is the evidence for such an event? How unfair you make this universe if Luke can be perfectly good and still be struggling with his own evil. If he can do all things right and still end up with nothing at the end of ROTJ. My feeling is, ROTJ ends the way it does because it shows to where Luke's failure to recognize his Dark Side sooner has brought him. Hopefully, he will only go up from here.

Tim Blaes, some issues back, inquired whether we were saying that Luke and Han were brothers. Well, Tim, I obviously cannot give you the ultimate answer to that question, but I can point out two things. The first is that, according to people around GL, he never throws an idea away and, if you recall, one of his early ideas was the story of an older brother coming to get his younger brother, who has been living on a farm, and then the two of them going off to find their father.

The second has to do with some very intriguing and carefully hidden dialogue in the Death Star scene--

(Before going any further, since I know what any number of people are going to say in response to this, why don't I say it and get it out of the way? "I ran shrieking to my tapes and I didn't hear it!" There, don't we all feel better? Far be it from me to point out that the fact that you did not hear it does not mean it isn't there. I've never been introduced to a neutron, but that is hardly grounds upon which to dismiss its existence. It should be noted that shrieking, which so badly interfered in someone's ability to even see what I had once referred to in a letter, will most definitely get in the way of hearing the dialogue. There is also, of course, the fact that any number of the people who make this claim don't want to hear it, which is sufficient in and of itself.

You will need something with an excellent sound track, preferably the film itself, though you'll need a quiet theater. There are multiple sound tracks and this dialogue has been carefully overlaid.

I will point out that, if I were the only one to have heard it, I would be suspicious myself, but too many other people have heard some or all of it, including some people who did not want to hear it, among that number being Luke fans and Han fans who always took ROTJ on the surface. Okay, now, where was I before I so rudely interrupted myself?)

--that adds a whole new dimension to the film. And certainly adds some spice!

I've raised these in SCOUNDREL, so for those of you who get both zines, please excuse the repetition. Anyway, the first piece of dialogue comes up when DV is pulling his tennis-match routine. Just before Vader decides to act, Han's voice comes up, shouting, "Father!" in a peremptory tone. Vader then acts.

The second piece of dialogue--and, by far the

hardest to hear--comes scant seconds later as DV swings the Emperor up. Again, Han's voice, very rough, shouting "Save him, Father" (it should be noted that this dialogue makes absolutely no sense if spoken by Luke. Who is he urging Vader to save? The Emperor?)

The last piece--and the easiest to hear--comes several moments later, after DV throws the Emperor over. Vader collapses and Luke pulls him back. There is a bit of Vader's heavy breathing--a purely mechanical sound--followed by James Earl Jones' voice saying, "Han". He pronounces it the same way Lando does.

Interestingly enough, you can often hear it better if you are not in the same room as the film, i.e., if you are just listening. There is an echo chamber sound to some of it, especially the original "Father."

Well, I said it was intriguing, yes? Is it, as Tim Blaes asks, a case of brothers or half-brothers? Is Luke, as Yoda tells him, Vader's son (and Yoda, while he will not volunteer information, has not lied to Luke)? If so, this leaves Anakin, the man who presumably left his lightsaber for a son he didn't know he had (if Luke is supposed to be his son). Perhaps, instead, which would make more sense, a son, older than Luke, that he did know he had (this, in addition to avoiding the absurdity of saying he didn't know about offspring on the one hand and left his saber for his unknown son on the other, avoids the obvious sexism of his leaving a saber to his son, but not his daughter).

There are, of course, other story possibilities attendant on this dialogue (let me say right off the bat, that I will not buy any explanation based on the Moronic Moviemakers Theory currently popular with some Luke fans). It adds, if nothing else, greater complexity to a character already the most mysterious of background. It is interesting that, with the ROTJ storybook, Lucas, for the first time openly has Luke wondering who Han is. If it were as clear as some Luke fans maintain, there would be no need to raise the issue.

To a more serious topic: if you recall, I indicated that, perhaps, ROTJ was a moral litmus test for the audience. We had somewhat of an example last issue, in which Luke's actions toward 3PO were defended on the ground the 3PO, after all, isn't as important--special?--as Luke. I mean, are we trying to say that 3PO is Luke's equal? Ah, so now we get into the realm of superior/inferior people. This is exactly the reasoning that supported slavery, apartheid, discriminating against women, and marching people into gas chambers, not to mention being the *raison d'être* behind the Leopold-Loeb murder. Some people are simply inferior, right? Little more than animals, after all, right? Or childlike. Or incapable of clear, rational thought. Or, or, or, or. And those superior people (and races) have the right to treat these inferior specimens anyway they chose, right?

Wrong. And Lucas thinks so, too. That's why he doesn't market in South Africa. That's why this incident is in the film, to point this up. That's why he has Han refuse to volunteer Chewie even though no one in the world thought Chewie would not go where Han went, to emphasize the treatment of 3PO, whom GL equates with Chewie as his minorities.

More, though, it is one thing for a character, who is at a certain point in his real life, "hag-ridden", with the Dark Side cracking the whip, a character who can ultimately defeat this part of himself to do this. It is another for the audience,

in the real world, to support this action and to defend on the very ground that Hitler used. At the very least, it calls for a severe examination of priorities.

One last comment. Some people writing SE are using its pages to attack other letterzines and editors. I've said it before: no letterzine is a proper forum in which to criticize other zines. If you have a gripe with an editor, raise it where she/he can defend herself/himself. To do otherwise is cowardly.

HAMILLFEN

Lynne Kennedy
Lorie Thompson
Jenny Lyn Catanzarro
Smithtown, New York

I see that Annie finally made it to the front page. Maybe now she'll stop complaining. She really didn't seem to have much to say, though. I would have liked more on HARRIGAN 'N HART and less of Annie's Adventures Among the Mundane New Yorkers. She was right on about the subway system. It is, to borrow from Joseph Papp, the "epitome of the pits."

I feel lucky, too. I saw HARRIGAN 'N HART seven times, including twice the weekend it closed. It was a bit disappointing that Mark wasn't able to spend as much time chatting with us as he usually does. I can remember one night during the run of AMADEUS when he spent twenty minutes with us outside the Broadhurst Theater even though it was after midnight and he had done two strenuous performances that day. Unfortunately, the powers that be decided to open HARRIGAN 'N HART on Broadway in the middle of the winter...a bad mistake. I am convinced that, had the show opened in the spring, it would still be running. At any rate, considering the rotten weather and freezing temperatures, none of us who know Mark felt the least big slighted that he had to play the Artful Dodger after each performance. We were far more concerned for his health (with good reason) than with nagging him for yet another autograph or picture. It was satisfaction enough to sit in our habitual front row seats (the stiff neck was worth it) and get that little glance of recognition as we let Mark know we were there to give our support.

When we first went to see the show on January 12, we really didn't expect to see Mark at all between performances. The weather aside, a lot of actors barely have time to grab a bite to eat and take a short nap before the evening performance. We were more interested in renewing acquaintances with the other cast members, delighted that most of the original Goodspeed cast had been retained. So, we were surprised when Mark did step out into the alley for a few minutes to sign some autographs before retreating back into the theater. One of our little group ran after him, not to thrust a program into his hands for his signature, but to give him a little bunch of flowers and, speaking for us all, begged him to "Take care of himself". That's the difference between a "fan" and what Mark

calls his "people."

By Tuesday night, Mark's voice sounded raspy and took a long time to warm up. Mark was obviously at a disadvantage with his comparatively untrained singing voice and the strain was beginning to show. We were glad when he snuck out the front door while everyone else was milling about the stage door. While we were showing Michael Stewart some of the photos I had taken of the Goodspeed production, he told us that Mark had been instructed not to stand out in the cold talking to people. With opening night a couple of weeks away, they were taking every precaution. We understood but there were a few people who grumbled and muttered, who had come a great distance just to see Mark, and who does he think he is?, that sort of thing. We tried to explain the circumstances and told them to try again when the weather got nicer (how were we to know the show would fold in less than a week?), that Mark usually does spend a lot of time with people after a show. Why, on one occasion when I took my nephews, aged 6 and 5, to see the show in Connecticut, the man directing us where to park saw the boys, leaned in the window, and asked, "Are these fellas here to see Mark?" Somewhat taken aback, I said yes, and he told us where to wait for him after the show. He wouldn't have done that without Mark's permission and the "fellas" have never forgotten Mark's kindness that night.

I guess Annie's article just rubbed me the wrong way because, while I enjoy reading SE, I have never felt compelled to contribute to it until now. As much as I loved the STAR WARS films, I cannot bring myself to discuss them with the same seriousness that I would the films of Francois Truffaut. But I showed the last issue of SE around and asked, "Does this sound like Mark?" The answer was a resounding NO. Sounded more like Harrison Ford to us. And not one of us has ever seen Mark with a bodyguard, either. I've seen him leave the theater alone, I've seen him leave with Marilou, with his mother, his cousin, with Michael Stewart, with one of the other actors in the show, but never with a bodyguard. As a matter of fact, on that last Saturday the show ran, while I stood outside the theater waiting for one of the cast members (I surprised myself by asking him out to dinner and he bowed me over by saying yes), I watched as Mark left the theater--by himself--and walked right through the crowd and into the pub next door without anyone giving him a second glance. I was the only one who recognized him. As much as I wanted to express my sympathies, I didn't because I did not want to draw attention to him. Happily, I got to say my piece in the end after I used some telepathy on my dinner date and he suggested we eat in the same pub. I guess what we want to say is that Mark has always been very generous with his time with us. It is really amazing what a "Please" and a "Thank you" and a "That was a great performance" can do. We understand the special problems Mark was facing with HARRIGAN 'N HART and felt they should be mentioned, since Annie didn't bother to.



Jean Stevenson
61 Union Place
Lynbrook, NY 11563

July 30, 1985

I'm hurrying this because I want to meet your deadline, and as I said to Judi Grove, I think she deserves a public apology. SOUTHERN ENCLAVE's readers should know she wrote me privately to protest what I said in SE#8 about invading Harrison Ford's privacy--and in conjunction with an unhappy notice of her article about meeting him around the set of WITNESS.

Please print this and my letter to her.

Dear Judi,

I got your letter today and had to respond immediately.

First, I want to offer my unreserved apology for having hurt you. If I had used the time delay I claimed to need to good purpose, I might have realized that your article did not deserve to be connected to any comments I had to make about inroads on Harrison Ford's privacy. Indeed, your article makes it very clear--as does your letter--that he was on his finest public behavior while filming in Pennsylvania.

My point was that actor-watching and a lot of the craziness that goes with it (did you see the mob scene at Cannes; do you know about the people who camp on folks' lawns?)--does seem to be, at best, confusing and, at worst, out of place in the letterzines.

But while I feel the point needed to be made, I should have used a rapier, not a broadsword. As it was, I hit a friend and probably missed my real and only legal targets.

Your article was beautifully and lovingly written and, I have no doubt, may have helped some readers--who've only considered Ford as a body, an object wandering through the camera frame see him as a real person, an actor who brings a lot of self to his craft, and, not incidentally, to some very popular characters.

Again, I'm so sorry for the hurt I've caused, the shadow I must have put over a very happy memory. If I may take my cloud away with me, I wish you all joy in that remembering and thank you for sharing it with us.

Now, one reason I've written so quickly is that the deadline for SOUTHERN ENCLAVE is in two days, and I want to get this in the mail to Cheree. You see, I think you deserve a public apology. I'll include to you a copy of what I'm sending Cheree. If for any reason you don't want it printed, write her first to pull it and I'll back you--if this gets to her in time in the first place.

Now, you be careful out here among the English.
Pax, Jean

The only other thing I'd say is that my objections to the Hollywood Boulevard star are now moot. VARIETY announced in its June 12 issue that Ford would be among those being so honored this coming year. However, I will restate the fact that both in print and quoted in a syndicated TV show as mentioned--which I have on tape--Harrison Ford did say he'd just as soon have the one star stand for both actors. Maybe he's just modest and didn't want to fall from too high a place.



Bev Clark
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July 27, 1985

Well, I've been found out. I knew it was only a matter of time before my evil cohorts and I were revealed for what we are: moral accommodationists. Yes, I admit it: we have failed the moral litmus test, as one perceptive reader has discovered. Moreover, another equally perceptive reader has also uncovered the dastardly plot to intentionally misdirect the letterzine's readers. My congratulations to these readers. I thought we had covered our tracks sufficiently, but they were too sharp for us. I apologize to the rest of fandom for inflicting our nasty evil selves on you. I promise I will spend at least the first third of eternity meditating on my sins--inbetween worshipping the one ~~god~~ true god, of course.

Furthermore, so that the morally righteous among us will recognize us deviationists before we threaten their purity, I propose that all ~~LUKE~~ fans wear a distinguishing mark of some sort. Perhaps a T-shirt in basic black, the color worn by such other evil types as Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox priests and Moslem Imams, emblazoned with the mark of our shame: I FAILED THE MORAL LITMUS TEST, perhaps, or MORAL ACCOMMODATIONIST.

On a serious note, I want to address a point made in one of these letters. Marcia says she hasn't met one Luke fan that still like George Lucas. There are two things to say here. The first is that such absolute arguments are dangerous, because it takes only one counter-example to prove them wrong. I'm willing to offer myself as the counter-example. Of course, I don't identify myself primarily as a Luke fan; I like all the characters, but I particularly like the gestalt of SW, the whole of it. So maybe I don't count. But I could give you other names--Maggie Nowakowska, for instance. (But I forgot; she's not a Luke fan primarily, either.) Carol Mularski. Lisa Cowan. (Oh, but she doesn't count, I suppose: she's not an active zine media fan.) The second point is that from what I've read in the letters of those people who don't care for GL, their dislike has nothing to do with whether or not Luke is the hero of SW, or whether or not he's "perfect." It seems to stem from what they see as overconcern with merchandising and money. Whether or not that is an accurate perception (I disagree, as I believe I've stated before), it's independent of GL's treatment of Luke in SW. These people are disappointed in George Lucas, not in Luke Skywalker.

While I'm in this area of SE, I'll also address one point in Elsie's letter, if Maggie will forgive me for interpreting her words. What Maggie said was not that logic is interchangeable, but that logic does not equal truth. Logic is a means, not the only one, of determining truth. One of the reasons logic doesn't equal truth, and isn't the only means of determining it, is precisely that logic is inflexible. It is also limited in scope. It does not apply, for instance, to emotions (Mr. Spock to the contrary).

Now to backtrack somewhat--

Several people mentioned that perhaps Bail Organa was a Jedi. I could buy this only if, as Mickey Malkin suggests, he was a "secret" Jedi. Otherwise, he'd be much too visible, as the viceroy of Alderaan (admittedly, this information, and even

Bail's name as Leia's father, are not from the movies), to have escaped destruction with the rest of the Jedi. He'd also be too potentially dangerous to the nascent Empire to be allowed to live. If he had any Jedi training at all, though, it's very plausible, as Tim Blaes said, that he would have taught Leia certain things. Not necessarily particularly "Jedi" things--that would be dangerous for Leia, and especially so once she became involved in the rebellion and her chances of meeting Darth Vader increased--but things such as Tim suggests: how to "influence" people, how to block a mind probe, maybe even how to lie convincingly (trained intelligence agents today are taught how to block lie detector tests, for instance). I'm assuming, by the way, that because Darth Vader never suspects her of having Forceful abilities, let alone of being Anakin's daughter, that there was nothing about her no aura no "signature"--to suggest Jedi to him.

Another subject that came up was whether or not Han is a Force user or a Force sensitive, even if he isn't a Jedi. Personally, I've always thought that he was an unconscious user of the Force. That was part of the point of the scene in ANH where Obi Wan tells Han, "In my experience, there's no such thing as luck," i.e., the Force is acting on Han, too. Han may consciously disbelieve in the Force, and perhaps be unable to use it deliberately, but he could still be able to manipulate it for navigation and general "luck," as long as he believes he's doing something else. There's precedent for this in the real world.

I second Marlene Karkoska's idea that the Jedi are likely to work with, rather than for, governments. Working for a government (as a police force, say), could put the Jedi into a position in which the government they represent asks them to do something they disapprove of, or does something unethical. They would maintain their credibility better as an independent, self-policing organization, though they would also be more vulnerable to criticism and propaganda should public opinion or the government turn against them. I suspect that this may be the sort of relationship Luke is already establishing with the rebel alliance; at least, one could make a case that he is (as Maggie Nowakowska has in her stories). How the new government will accept this depends partly on if and how the Jedi were connected with the fall of the Republic. If the Jedi were generally incorruptible, as Barbara Tennison suggests, independence may be acceptable for the new Jedi.

Back to "incorruptibility" for a moment. Assuming Barbara is right and a Jedi fallen to the Dark Side was rare: perhaps the Emperor did try to corrupt the Jedi at some point and destroyed them only when they would not be corrupted. I like Barbara's idea that Darth Vader is such a singular figure because he almost alone of the Jedi was corruptible; the usual fate of traitors is to be discarded after their usefulness ends because a person who has betrayed once cannot be trusted not to betray again. Of course, Darth Vader's situation may be unique. That is, he was corrupted, but his corrupter and master is an extremely powerful Force wielder, who holds Vader (and perhaps encouraged his betrayal) by fear. Even if Jedi are usually incorruptible, the influence of such a wild card, who is perhaps not a Jedi himself, may never have occurred before in the Jedi's history.

Yet I'd find it hard to believe that Jedi were completely immune to temptation from the Dark Side, or even that they are immune if they have once suc-

cessfully countered the temptation. They would be inhuman (in the figurative sense of the term) if that were the case. I think rather that after the first major temptation (which I would think all Jedi must face), they would be less likely to fall through hubris--thinking themselves immune or strong enough to overcome any temptation--and more able to recognize the sources of temptation in time. That is, they'd be less likely to fall, though not completely unlikely, but the price might be constant awareness of the Dark Side, not to mention the sobering knowledge that they too are susceptible. The fall of a full-fledged Jedi through the 1,000 generations might have been rare enough that Barbara's idea about Vader's singularity would still work.

In the matter of droids, I hold a position similar to Marlene Karkoska's. (If I'm already condemned as a moral accommodationist, what's another circle lower?) I work with and write about artificial intelligence researchers, who are actually trying to create "intelligent" computers and robots. ("Intelligent" is in quotes because one of the hot arguments in the field is over the definition of intelligence, especially as applied to computers.) At some time in the (very!) distant future, they might produce something of the complexity of R2D2 and C3PO; there are also those in the field who say it's impossible. Yet even in the case of such nearly human robots, everything about it is as much determined by the intelligent beings that created it as are the characteristics of a landspeeder. The robot or droid knows only what it has been programmed to know; even if it can learn, it learns only to the extent, and in the manner, its programming allows it to. Its "free will" is limited by the extent of its programming. So are its emotions (whether they are "real" emotions or simply mimicry of "human" emotional responses to certain stimuli is another philosophical question). I could not regard as my moral equal a mechanical being whose moral choices depended on a program written by some intelligent biological being no better or worse than me. I would have deep qualms about giving the vote to a robot or droid that might be instructed by its program to vote in a certain manner. As long as robots or droids are totally dependent on their biological creators or programmers for their individuality and so on, they are slaves in the deepest sense, and I see nothing wrong with programming them to function as servants or with treating them as such. Or with sending them into danger; one of the reasons we make robots today, which I imagine will not change, is so that they can do those things that would endanger living beings.

Things would not be so simple, of course, if it were known exactly what were the essence of "humanity" (or "speciesshood" for any other intelligent species) and a droid could be programmed with whatever that was; that is, if a droid's brain were essentially no different from our own and it were "programmed" the way we are--slowly and uncertainly over the course of many years. All sorts of questions would arise then, not only about droids' nature and rights but about those of biological beings. Which category the droids in SW fall into is uncertain. There's some hint that they are programmed (it's unlikely that 3PO could have picked up 6 million languages and dialects by learning the way biological beings do without an existence measured in thousands of years). There is also no question in anybody's minds in the movies but that they are servants, in fact that they are objects to be owned. The only question seems to be how they are regarded.

In general, the Imperials seem to pay them no attention at all (so far as we can see); the "good guys" treat them as something between appliances and pets.

Of course, Barbara Tennison is right that gravity is just another aspect of the Force (or the superforce, in my original context). It was the first force known, in fact. In relation to SW, gravity alone comes close to fitting Obi-Wan's original explanation to Luke; add the other three known forces (electromagnetism, strong, and weak), and you have something like the Force in SW. And, I'll bet, inadvertently on GL's part.

The problem with Luke and Leia's ages doesn't arise if you take only the movies themselves as "gospel" for future movies, as their ages are never given or hinted at on screen, only in the "alternate" sources. And there is the other factor that maybe GL changed his mind about their relationship midstream--he certainly did that with other things, e.g., Obi-Wan's death and even Luke's name (Luke was Luke Starkiller until roughly halfway through the shooting script).

By the time the next SE appears, we'll probably know what the art in the Ewoks and Droids animated cartoons looks like. I haven't been too impressed with the stills I've seen, I confess. On the other hand, Nelvana, the animation studio doing it, has a good reputation. It is doing or was going to do (I don't know its current status) the Elfquest movie. A correspondent involved in Elfquest fandom told me that the Pinis chose Nelvana because it will only accept projects when (1) it believes in them and (2) it will be able to do a good job by its own definition. This is at least a hopeful sign, though I still don't expect anything of the caliber of, say, THE SECRET OF NIMH. I imagine the stories will be aimed at fairly young children, especially on EWOKS, but that's not a bad thing. Virtually no one is doing movies or TV shows for the littlest viewers (whereas, in contrast, there is a large industry producing written material for young children), and the Ewoks in particular may fill that niche. ((Ed's note: There is the possibility too that the two shows will elaborate on the SW universe or even the characters, especially in the DROID sequence. This was done with the STAR TREK animated series, which introduced a number of facts and concepts that were incorporated into the "canon" of that universe.))

If fans have argued that GL tried too hard to please everybody with ROTJ and ended up pleasing no one, as Melody Corbett suggests, the argument makes sense only if "everybody" is defined as "SW fans." He pleased the general audience to the tune of \$330 million, which is not only a lot of tickets but a lot of repeat business as well. It's also not a whole lot less than ANH made (\$400 million) and more than TESB (\$290 million or so). From everything I've read, it appears that the main person GL tried to please was himself--which is all any artist ever does: be true to his or her own vision. (Within the restrictions of the collaborative effort a movie is; GL was not even solely responsible for the story of ROTJ.)

And then there is the matter of SF fandom and its relation to media fandom. Interesting that the subject comes up here, too, because it has been a topic in SF fanzines for a couple of years now.

SF fandom is different from media fandom in many ways, though there is a broad similarity in the forms the fandom takes and in some of the characteristics of the fans themselves. For one thing,

SF fans are largely male while media fans are overwhelmingly female. Why is anyone's guess, though I think Cheree has part of the answer in her suggestion that there is a certain amount of movie-star fandom in media fandom, and that has never attracted males. It's certainly nothing as simplistic as men (SF fans) preferring action/adventure and women (media fans) preferring characters; the most vitriolic anti-media SF fans tend to be just those who dislike action/adventure SF and press for more sophisticated, character-oriented SF. Then there are the differences in SF fanzines, which rarely contain fiction, except of the "fannish" (in-group-ish) variety. Those few that do contain fiction are regarded with contempt, as most fans feel that there are enough paying markets for SF that anything publishable could be sold to them, so that anything published in a fanzine is likely to be what is un-publishable, i.e., awful. The fact that media fanzines are almost entirely fiction is one reason why some SF fans regard us with contempt. Their opinion is inappropriate in media fandom because of different circumstances, but they carry it over anyway - mostly because they have never bothered to actually read a media fanzine. (Admittedly, some have and still dislike them.)

But then, some SF fans regard us with contempt anyway and merely seize on fan fiction as an excuse. Explain its role in media fandom, and they'll find something else to dislike. Reason doesn't have a whole lot to do with it, either, where the die-hards are concerned, nor does knowing media fans personally. At most the die-hards will allow that an individual media fan is "different" or not really a media fan, at all. I have an acquaintance, a medium-BNF in SF fanzine fandom, who knows not one but several active media fans and has for 10 years. He still dislikes and refuses to understand media fans in general. One can see the same attitude in the lettercolumns of SF fanzines.

There have been attempts to explore the antagonism, both in those lettercolumns and at conventions, but they don't seem to have changed anyone's mind. (Informal meetings have had better luck.) At one con--Orycon in 1983 a panel of SF and media fandoms was scheduled, but none of the SF side bothered to show up. At others, people have talked to each other. (Things may come to something of a head next year at Norwescon, the local [Seattle] SF con. The new chair is reported to be strongly opposed to any media-fan participation in the con and to dislike media fandom in general.)

I think the major part of the difficulty the two sides have had in communicating is that the antagonism is irrational, and it may be one-sided. That is, while there are media fans who are ignorant of SF fandom, there are few (that I know) who hate SF fans and fandom the way the die-hards in SF fandom hate media fandom. But then, they don't threaten us, and we do threaten them, however unconsciously the threat is perceived.

For one thing, we threaten the status of the BNF's--media fans don't know who they are, and, worse, don't care. Something they love is also threatened: not just SF, but written SF, and maybe writing (and reading) in general. No matter how literate media fans are, the fact that their primary loyalty is to visual SF is threatening to those who love the written medium. And this threatens their future, because they see so many more of us than of them, and most importantly, they see that the new blood is not coming into SF fandom but into some form of media fandom, though not necessarily what

we would recognize as media fandom. The average of the readers of the general-circulation SF fanzines is going up one year every year; the absolute number of fanzines is down; the number of fanzines by new comers is down even further; and some of the newer members of SF fanzine fandom are not the traditional teenagers but people in their 20's and 30's.

So what do I suggest? First, to understand the background (some of it) of hostility to us, and not to assume an antagonistic attitude. Not all SF fans dislike media fans; in fact, most don't. It's just that the ones who do are so loud about it! Don't deprecate SF fandom and if you don't know much about it and happen to be talking to a SF fan, admit it and whatever you do, don't compare it unfavorably with media fandom to his face. Discuss the subject as rationally as possible; this in itself may be a pleasant surprise to the SF fan (though SF fans are not necessarily rational themselves, as the vicious battles over the SF fan funds recently showed). Agree with any valid criticism the fan makes of media fandom, or at least try to explain it calmly without coming off like a fanatic--another stereotype SF have of media fans. Realize that you are most likely not going to convert the most rabid anti-media fans, no matter what you do. At best, you may convince one that you are one of the different fans.

And take Norman Spinrad with about 5 pounds of salt. The man speaketh with forked tongue, as they say. In one breath, he will decry the way media fans have taken over SF cons and introduced celebrity worshipping into "egalitarian" SF fandom, and in the next complain that SF cons don't cater sufficiently to SFWA members. Also, his preferred style is passionate, which tends to exaggerate the force of his argument. However, it also makes him amusing, if infuriating, to watch in action. Any panel with him as a member is guaranteed to be lively at the very least.

Well, Cheree, that is it, and boy, are you glad. I'll bet! This is just barely going to make your deadline, I suspect.

UNDER-THE-WIRE AWARD

Mary Urhausen
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July 31, 1985

Omigod, I'm doing it again! I can't believe it--this time I swore I was going to get a letter in to you in plenty of time (after all, I read SE#8 months ago, marked all the letters I wanted to comment on, and was in general all prepared and fired up...and then promptly buried the poor thing under the tons of detritus that accumulate in my room!). If Annie Wortham and Jenni Hennig are regularly competing for getting their letters in SE first, can I start a competition with someone for getting mine in last??! (We could call it the Under-the-Wire Award.) ((Ed's note: Winner this issue is

Jeannie Webster, whose letter was so under the wire for last issue that it got in this issue! Time, tide and SOUTHERN ENCLAVE wait for no fan!))

I loved the section of photos from MediaWestCon! But I think you have mistakingly identified Judi Grove as Marci Erwin [they may live together, but they definitely are not the same person!]. And fie on you for not knowing who Eric Larson is! [A great guy, who personally escorted me through the most dangerous part of "Hall Wars" one night in the Hilton!] I am not at all offended to have been overlooked in your photo section, as I am already known on sight to hundreds of MWC-goers as That Whacky Woman Who Spends So Much In the Art Auction; or, now, as One of Those Two Wacky Women Who Removed John Hennig's Jeans During the Art Auction! Ah, so much fame, so little time...! ((Ed: Apologies to Judi and Marci for the mix-up; I think I only met them once and they were introduced as "This is JudiGrove&MarciErwin." For those folks whom I overlooked in the photo section, be aware that these pictures were from my personal picture taking, most of which included Annie Wortham, Liz Sharpe and Lois Indelicato going bananas in the room, or the costume contest, or various and sundry pix that would only have meant anything to me. If any of you would like to share some of your con photos, please drop me a note and we'll discuss it.))

Mary Keever: I cast one vote with you for Han and Leia remaining together (so I'm a hopeless romantic, too!)--although not necessarily "settling down." For an idea of what I mean, see Liz Sharpe's excellent story in SOUTHERN KNIGHTS--I loved it!

Rose Arnold: Count me as another enthusiastic WITNESS fan; it's the second-best movie of the year! I thought it was a fantastic film, as much so the tenth time I saw it as the first time. As for "non-Ford-fans'" objective and response to it, well, certainly most of the film reviewers aren't Ford fans, and it received uniformly good reviews. And most of my non-Ford-fan friends also loved it. It's just one hell of a good story, very convincingly told.

I can't agree with you about DUNE, though [has any movie so divided SF fans?? Most loved or hated it!]. Maybe because I was not a big fan of the book(s), I enjoyed the film. It was--dare I say it?--too short; felt like too much had been edited out to cram it into the "correct" theater length (since the major studios think no one can sit for more than 120 minutes at one time...hah! They should have seen the LA SW trilogy showing!!). I guess as a "visualist" I just liked the whole look of the film; I didn't really care if it made sense or followed Frank Herbert's ideas!

Debbie Gilbert: Re your comments to Maggie Nowakowska on George Lucas: Why should Lucas foot the bill for ROTJ on NPR??? I am at a loss to understand why people think that because Lucas is wealthy (and remember, he wasn't born with that money), we are all entitled to a free ride! I don't expect S. C. Johnson to provide me with free "Raid" or "Pledge" just because he's a millionaire, nor do I expect the Rockefellers to fly me all over the country or wine and dine me. If the public wants ROTJ on NPR, the public (that's us) should pay for it. Lucas has given them the rights to ROTJ; I think that's quite enough. Just who is being "mercenary" here--Lucas or the fans??

Michelle Malkin: Loved your comments about general sf fans and media fans; what are they afraid of, indeed? I think I buy and read just as many "non-media" sf books as most of these general sf

fans do; I'm fairly conversant with their authors and what's what in general fandom. We are not exactly illiterate idiots! Could it be that most of the really mud-slinging general sf fans suspect they might be missing out on something that's fun?? From my experiences at media and non media cons, I think we really do have more fun!

Cindy Rodriguez: Welcome to SE! I enjoyed your letter very much. I want to respond to Cher-ee's editorial note in your letter, asking about the zine "audience". My experience with publishing THE WOOKIEE COMMODE now for two years is that perhaps 20-25% of your buyers are people who submit anything to zines; maybe another 10% at least submit LoCs. But--we have noticed that several readers have been encouraged to try submitting something to the zine, after seeing the enthusiasm of our other new contributors. And this is a great trend, because zinedom needs new contributors to keep it fresh and growing. We encourage these neophytes all we can, because we want to keep fresh ideas coming in (and besides, most of them are terrific!).

Back to Cindy's letter: I don't think that male sf fans are necessarily more interested in plot over characterization; I just think they have a lower threshold of boredom for some of the no-plot, over-characterized stories some media fans (male and female) produce! Case in point: If I read one more "Han reflecting on his True Feelings while in carbonite" story or poem, I think I'll puke! I love a good plot, but only if the characters "feel" right, too; otherwise, I don't care what happens to them, no matter how clever or exciting the plot is. One the other hand, a bunch of excruciatingly correct characters sitting around agonizing over their True Feelings is also a crashing bore. Balance, please!

Sally Smith: Re female fandom [uh, females in fandom, NOT fans of females!], I think you have hit upon something with your comment that women may be more willing to work at something that has no promise of monetary reward. I'm not sure if this is a cultural thing, or an innate thing. Certainly it isn't work without reward--the emotional and intellectual reward is immense. But we ain't getting paid for it--in fact, if you publish a zine, you are probably losing money on it! (I speak from experience!) Maybe women can "afford", image wise, to make "fools" out of themselves over something like fandom, where many men feel they can't afford to. This comes back, then, to my original comments about how great a tolerance for public ridicule one has. I still think most women have more tolerance for it than most men--can "afford" to have more tolerance, perhaps, because society expects women to be a bit "frivolous". [And I say this from a position of some professional respect, where I have often watched women make the strong, hard decisions, while their mates quite often (literally) faint!]

Elsie Bartok: I would hate myself if I didn't tackle at least one sticky and controversial issue...so how about Luke leaving the strike force on Endor?? (The fact that I am privy to an excellent Karen Ripley story that sort of explains this whole mess has nothing to do with my opinions, of course! Heh heh heh!) My immediate impression is, "Hey--who cares?" Was Luke's presence crucial to the mission? Obviously not, since they did pretty well without him. He volunteered to go, so I don't know if his leaving could be categorized as desertion. I think it's also quite obvious why he told Leia (hell, he tells her why he had to tell her!), and why he didn't tell Han. If Han had known in ad-

vance, he would have tried to "rescue" Luke, and then the strike force's mission would have been compromised. I think the fact that Leia wouldn't tell Han where Luke went, or why, kind of says it all. She realizes that Luke has to leave (even if she doesn't like it!), and I think she also realizes that Han's feelings for Luke would require him to take some action if he knew "the kid" had marched off to face Vader again. When you think about it, Leia is really the one in the "moral maelstrom" on this one: she is trying to balance her concern for the two men she loves against her concern for the imperativeness of their mission on Endor. Real ulcer material!

One more--then I promise I'll quit!

Jean Stevenson: I, too, have often thought of SW in the Arthurian vein! In fact, that was my first reaction after seeing ANH the first time back in '77. (Of course, at the time I was also deeply immersed in a love affair with the whole Arthurian legend, so it only seems natural!) At first, I saw Han as Lancelot to Luke's Arthur, with Luke destined to "get" the Princess, but Han doomed always to love her, no matter how unsuitably. Now, of course, with Luke and Leia's relationship, it seems poor Luke is doomed to play Lancelot--a longing without relief! No matter how you look at it, someone gets bumped out!

As for your comments about the \$3000 for Harrison Ford's star on Hollywood Boulevard being better spent on something like relieving world hunger...the same thought occurs to me whenever I see our military buy another \$600 hammer or \$6000 toilet! Seriously, I think we all realize the solution is just not that simple. My suggestion is this: whenever you find yourself desiring to spend a few bucks for something others might question as frivolous [which for me is half the things I do!], write a little check for a like amount and send it to African Relief--or Save the Whales, or whatever suits you. Have your fun and save the world, too. I have made a hell of a lot of charitable donations this way, and I feel not a whit of guilt for the money I have also "squandered" on the silly things I wanted to buy or do. (P.S. Just for the record, I have not helped buy Harrison's star; I figure if he wants one, he'll pick up the phone and give me a call and solicit the bucks himself. If he does that, you can be sure I will cheerfully contribute!)

Enough! Remember, as always, I welcome opposing viewpoints--no matter how stupid, ignorant, and uninformed they may be!!

FIRST LETTER

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July 22, 1985

I loved your fan photos in #8, but I have an addition and a correction. The guy pictured with Jean, Jenni and Martynn is Eric Larson. Also, on the top of page three, isn't the lady to the far left Judi Grove rather than Marci Erwin?

I enjoyed Ann Wortham's account of seeing HAR-

RIGAN 'N HART. It's lucky they were able to see the play right away. Although it closed quickly, Hamill seems to have gotten good notices, so he should land something else very soon.

Zineds: If you want useful commentary on your work, keep sending your zines to Sandra Necchi. I admire her for reviewing under her own name; it shows she stands behind her opinions, but will remain objective.

Sally Syrjala and others: I agree there would have to be some limitation to how far one's powers in the Force could go. Not only am I uncomfortable with the thought of anybody having so much power, but I think it would be inconvenient getting psychic impressions everytime one picks up a salt shaker. Why wouldn't Jedi hold military positions? If Luke's commander status is honorary, does the same go for General Kenobi, as Leia addresses him in her holographic message?

Somebody (was it in another zine?--sorry) brought up the theory that you use the "Light Side" of the Force, but the Dark Side uses you. I like that, and it has less value judgement than some other theories. The Emperor hardly looks human any more. Wasn't he human once? Is his appearance due to great age, or is the Dark Side working these changes on his physical being? (Then again, I think he looks as if he's turning into a mushroom like you-know-who. Oh oh!)

Several writers regarding Luke's behavior as the Emperor zapped him: what purpose would it have served if Luke had died under the Emperor's attack? The last bit of good in Vader would have died with his son. Consider that Luke had the chance to run from Endor, but chose instead to look for the good left in his father. His last statement before the Emperor's attack was that he was a Jedi like his father before him. Saving his father was the most important thing in the universe to him, and at the end, he had to BEG his father not to blow his last chance at changing. Reaching for those possible fatherly feelings was the only choice he had left. What is ignoble about such a plea?

It looks like some of the old acrimony is seeping into some of the letters. I really disliked the sarcastic tone in one or two. Maybe we could take it easy on Cheree and each other and hang onto our more passionate missives for a few days, or have someone else read them before they are sent.

Mary Keever: I've seen those rip-off magazines too. They are pretty funny, but I think that even the sleaziest ones look more "official" to the general public than does any fanzine. The publishers seem to try to pass them off as the real story. It galls me that some fly by night publisher can make a few bucks ripping off copyrighted material, while fanzine eds and contributors, who are making no money at all and attempting to deceive no one, are sometimes put through such grief.

Let me add to Rose Arnold's comments on WITNESS, that I was also thrilled with the film's critical and financial success. I had especially high hopes for this one as Ford reportedly had a lot of control over the script and casting, as well as the choice of director. I always wanted to see how a Ford film would turn out if he had such control. WITNESS shows that his instincts and judgment, not to mention his good taste, are ahead of that shown by some people making film today. He deserves the clout he's acquired.

I wish we could lose that rumor about Ford appearing on LEAVE IT TO BEAVER. According to all his biographical material, Ford never acted profes-

sionally until he left college in the mid-sixties. In the late fifties, on the very early shows (before Tony Dow's voice began to change), Wally did have a friend named Chester who bore a passing resemblance to a young HF. Chester was played by Bud Hart. I've checked this out with the reruns on WTBS and a local station. (Tim Matheson, spelling his name Mathieson, was on the show, however. He played Beaver's friend later on.) Funny how a rumor gets started and one or two newspaper columns report it as fact. Then other newspapers repeat the inaccuracy and it finally ends up among other errors as an answer in "STARLOG Science Fiction Trivia." It still doesn't make it true.

Lin S. Ward: I think Yoda does refer to himself as a Jedi at least twice in the Saga, once in TESB ("Jedi Master? Yoda...you seek Yoda!") and once in ROTJ ("When I am gone, the last of the Jedi will you be."). There is at least one other being in the Saga with a life span close to Yoda's. Chewbacca is reportedly 200 years old, yet still appears to be in his prime.

I agree that Force ability would probably be present in all sentient species. Yes, I can picture a dia nogu with a lightsaber, but what about some of those beasts in the Mos Eisley cantina?

I think Luke's "Wormie" nickname helped all of us identify with him as he struggled through an awkward adolescence. Peer approval is overly important at that age. As a teenager, I fantasized about doing great things and being important when I grew up. Apparently, so did George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, Cyndi Lauper, Janis "At Seventeen" Ian, and others who did do "great things." On my first viewing of SW eight years ago, I saw it as a wonderful wish fulfillment story: the unappreciated boy turns out to be the only one who can save the day. It was only on the third or fourth viewing that I began to see other possibilities in the story.

One more digression on the actors: Want to feel old? Harrison Ford is slightly more than nine years older than Mark Hamill. ANH was filmed in 1976. Therefore, Hamill is now the same age as Ford was when he first played Han Solo.

Marlene Karkoska: You opened up a couple of issues that could become very hot. Regarding giving former Imperials a part in the New Republic, I would agree assuming you meant the people of the worlds that supported the Empire rather than the actual officers who called the shots. We could compare the situation to the way the German people were treated after each World War. After WWI, the Allies seemed to want to humiliate the nation as a whole. This left the people all too willing to believe lies about how certain groups had "prevented" Germany from winning the war and about how the Germans were better than any other people. (I realize there were other factors, including the Great Depression.) Contrast this with the way the Western Allies rehabilitated West Germany after WWII so that even 40 years later we are on friendly terms (also Japan). But the officers who ran the death camps and committed other atrocities (the officers they could catch) were removed from their positions and punished. I would not relish a SW version of the Nuremberg Trials, but why should people like Tarkin (and there are probably many more) have any part in the new government? This brings up other questions. Wouldn't it be safer for Luke and Leia to keep mum about their heritage? (This has been addressed beautifully several times in fanlit. The conclusion: yes, they should keep it a secret for a few decades.) What about efficient officers, like Piett

and Veers, who just seem to be doing their jobs? What are their real loyalties? Are they to be trusted? Worst of all, if the stormtroopers are (as I think) force-grown clones conditioned from "birth" to obey every order and have no second thought about killing or dying for the Empire, would a sufficiently skilled behavioral scientist be able to simply switch their allegiance so they would do the same for the New Republic? Should this be done? If not, what is to be done with the hundreds of thousands or millions of them? Can they be "rehabilitated?" If not, then what? Imprisonment? Death?

Regarding my remarks on the German people, I do not mean to excuse anyone of personal responsibility, but this sort of national amnesia is not exclusive to Germany. Look at the millions of people in the U. S. today flocking to see historical revision in the forms of RAMBO and MISSING IN ACTION. "They wouldn't let us win," said Rambo. "Do we get to win this time?" If it makes them feel better, most people will believe the Big Lie, from a Hitler or a Palpatine.

On droid rights, artificial intelligence, whatever--oh boy, we'll never settle that one! Our civilization would probably be safer taking DUNE's way out and curtailing the complexity of its "thinking machines." Then the issue would not arise for real. On one hand, our brains are actually very sophisticated machines driven by chemical reactions rather than mechanical or electrical components. (Whether or not a "soul" expresses itself through this machine cannot be proved or disproved.) What if we were to build a computer that could learn independently and perform every function of the human brain? What if this "mind" were also kind, creative, idealistic, humorous, sympathetic (that really takes experience--look at BLADERUNNER), and all the other qualities we value in each other? Would such a being not be more desirable than some "real humans" to be neighbor, co-worker, citizen, supervisor? (As an android girl on OTHERWORLD asked, why was she different from the human boy, "...because I was made by man and you were made by God?") On the other hand, I probably wouldn't want my son or daughter to marry one. I'm sure we won't have to worry about any of this in our lifetimes. Actually even the SW droids do not seem to be quite sophisticated enough to "replace" humans yet, although they seem to act so independently that it seems some consideration of their rights must be made.

I don't blame Luke for not confiding in 3PO, considering the droid's reaction at Jabba's palace, although Michelle Malkin astutely points out that 3PO is a much better deceiver than he appears. The gift of the droids does bother me, though, as it makes it appear that Luke never seriously considered any alternative to fighting Jabba.

Michelle Malkin: If SW technology is advanced enough so that another pair of lungs could be cloned for Vader, why does Luke have a mechanical hand? ((Ed: Perhaps the technology does exist but is of such a specialized nature that it is only available at the most advanced medical facilities, something to which the rebels do not have access because of their outlaw status.)) We'll never be able to prove whether or not Anakin's body was inside the armor on the pyre. The "volcano" may not have left much more than we saw in his death scene. In this scene there was a shot of Luke with tears streaming down his face and Anakin lying in the foreground. There was enough time for us to see the body subliminate to another dimension if it were going to do so. Why

is this necessary for entry into "Jedi heaven"? Yoda emphasized that we are not "this crude matter". I can't see what Anakin's "crude matter" has to do with his "luminous being." ((Ed: Then, again, perhaps Anakin wasn't dead but just unconscious. Perhaps he died on the shuttle. Or perhaps, when Ben and Yoda reincorporated, it was a conscious act just before death. Note that Ben composes himself just before Vader strikes him with the saber.))

Isn't the Dark Side Universe idea fascinating? It could be the SW equivalent of "Mirror, Mirror." Sure, droids can be Dark Side, but what about Wookiees? Now that's scary!

Like Michelle, I think that the Jedi could have become weakened by the time of the Clone Wars. Any human institution that's been around for "over a thousand generations" is likely to become set in its ways, no matter how "true" or "right" its original vision. Michelle also made some very logical comments on Leia's possible future role in the New Republic.

Cindy Rodriguez asked if mainstream SF fanzines also are filled with stories like ours. Not the few with which I'm familiar. SF fans seem to think that if a story is not good enough to publish professionally, it's not good enough to publish at all. The zines I've seen often have very pointed reviews and colorful accounts of cons and other events. The letter columns are also a major feature. Some of the articles and letters tend to cater to an "in" group, spelling "God" and "beer" as "Ghod" and "bheer", stuff like that. Some zines also will devote pages to things like listings of an author's books, stories and articles, with ungodly (unghodly?) amounts of white space in between, useful to some fans, but not terribly creative. I've seen articles ranging from informative and enlightening to pompous and pedantic.

I happen to think that it is better for a beginning fiction writer to publish works in a fanish publication if s/he is not ready for the pros. Fellow fen give some feedback, at least more than you'd get from a form rejection slip. I'm preaching to the converted, right?

Are more women involved in media fandom because of an attraction to a character as played by a certain actor? I got into active fandom because of Harrison Ford's portrayal of Han Solo in ANH. For me, though, there has to be more. I've been strongly attracted to other characters, but did not want to read or write stories about them. For a fandom to last more than a year or two, there have to be strong enough characterizations backed up by a "universe" developed enough so that we would like to get inside and walk around. Having a "language" understood by hundreds or thousands of fans helps the neo get started.

Barbara Tension: What an elegant theory on why Palpatine was such a blabbermouth! The difference in the twins' ages being due to different dates of record had occurred to me, too.

Cheree: Thank you for the comments on fans' rivalry over the ST characters. I found the perspective reassuring. Neither my sister nor I watched the entire EWOK ADVENTURE, but she did tape it. I saw the last half hour and it confirmed my worst expectations. I don't know when we'll watch it. Maybe if I have children someday, I'll show it to them on their second or third birthdays.

That's enough for now--and I thought I wouldn't have anything to say! This was my first letter to SE and it's probably gone over the limit (I'll see when it's typed up). I'm sorry I commented on so

few of the letters. I have to plead long-windedness and a bit of intimidation in a few cases. Now I know why everyone writes such long letters.

GENETIC JEDI

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Alright, Cheree. I think that there is some thing that we need to discuss. Re the "photo" you decided to print in the last issue of SE, and the name that you put beside it--one "Nenni Whinney", whom I have NO connection with WHATSOEVER...

You're pushin', you're really pushin'...

I refuse to say anything more, as it would give credence to the rumor that I have recently had an operation to have my finger attached to my nose (in order to further my nose-thumbing at CERTAIN PERSONS, Cheree...) ((Ed's note: Actually the surgeon was trying to attach your finger inside your nose, but he missed.))

You promised you wouldn't TELL!!!

Now. Ahem. Now that that's over, on to less heart rending subjects.

Re blonde hair. Now. I think that an expert on the subject needs to shed a little light on this ca-ca about Luke's hair color. Can you say "blonde hair darkens with age"? I knew you could. Can you say, "in one's mid-twenties, light gold hair tends to go to dark gold, even light brown"? I knew you could. Now, go home and repeat this many times, and, just maybe, it'll sink in.

(If anyone doubts the authenticity of my experience in the above area, send a SASE and I'll send various pics of my hair, from age 5 to now!) ((Ed: Ditto Ye Ed, whose hair has ranged from white blonde at age two all the way up to the present medium brown--and in answer to the question, does she or doesn't she yes, she does; about three times a year!))

Lin Ward: There are a LOT of things I could say about the Wormie nickname, and I don't think any of them are printable. And NONE of them are insulting! Also, mucho thanks for the VEERRRRRY nice things you said. I'm embarrassed. And I'm loving it!

Mickey: Please, don't jump up and down so much. I was talking about the "I know" line in regards to most of the audience, who snickered. You and I know how much pain he was in, but obviously most of the audience didn't get the connection. Out of 1776, I tend to like John Adams. My mate says it's because we're so much alike--"the Agitator". I like to think it's a compliment--chuckle!

Speaking on the psychology of fandom being mostly in their thirties--I recently read a book about the "baby boom" era called GREAT EXPECTATIONS. It mentions SW briefly as being something that the "bbs" saw as escape back to childhood. It is also a fascinating sociological study! Fandom does tend to have the 1947-1960 kids in it.

See this club, Mickey? It has your name on it, you'd better watch out! No, seriously, I didn't clarify myself enough in the article when I spoke of the Jedi as being a "genetic" race. I was speak

ing out of context, perhaps. I MEANT that it is a genetic trait, perhaps--but one that is passed on throughout the many races of the galaxy. Therefore, you can be an eight-armed alligator from Ilduc and have the Force, as long as you have that certain mix of genes that allows you to consciously USE it.

Cindy Rodriguez: I'm glad you caught onto the point about "...forever will it dominate your destiny...". Everything we do in life stays with us. We are basically the person that we were when we were six--in the sense that most of your personality and formation is done by then. Now, whether you choose to remain that six-year-old or not--that's the choice. But still, the choice is under influence. You could start down the Dark Path, but choose to leave it. Even so, the choice and the losing of yourself in that way, even for a little while, is still with you, a part of your experience.

One thing real quick--I'm enjoying all the pagan comments and mythos! Seems there's more people out there than I thought with my "primitive" bend of thought! And I'm glad everyone seems to be enjoying "the Private Life". Gives me the incentive to go on (and on, and on...I heard that!).

Re THE EWOK ADVENTURE--the acting did stink. I think someone should have maced Mace. But my daughter loves it, and that's what counts. One thing, though--if this is such a "kid's movie", why all the NASTY monsters? I've had a kid attached to my lap every scene with "monsters" in it. But she keeps coming back for more.

Tim Blaes: Leia is the strongest in the saga in certain ways, but in emotional involvement, up till JEDI, she's been the weakest. She has gotten better, but if we adhere to the theory that the Dark Side is the emotional, then she would be very susceptible to it for it's her weakest defense. And I do have the SW Brit comics, but I thought you just wanted to buy them, and I'm not sure I want to sell. Anything else, let me know and we can possibly work something out.

Onto another unpleasant subject. I think that Cheree is being very nice to those of you who insist on hassling her. I also think that you'd better stop being such jackasses and seeing bad in everything that's said. There is ridiculous and there is sublime. Take offense at everything, and give it, too--and believe me, there's some REALLY offensive stuff going on. Grow up.

(A quick note: Cheree made apologies for me last ish in that I was unable to make the deadline. I did not ask her to extend the deadline--as an editor, I know how impossible that can be at times! Neither did I ask her to make apologies for me--but I'm glad she did. Fandom does not, true, hold its breath to get an answer from any fan, but I considered it a COURTESY on Cheree's part to explain my absence. Look at the word -COURTESY--and consider it before you bellow so next time.)

And as to you, Ain't Worthit--uh, Annie Wortham...

Oh, phooey on you! And just see if I don't get my letter before you THIS time!!

Elsie Bartok: watch EMPIRE again; while Han's getting his taun-taun ready, others are getting ready to take other sections to look for Luke. And the shield doors were closed on BOTH Han and Luke. There are times when ANYONE'S dispensible, even a first-rate commander or a man who's been a lifeline of help to the Alliance.

End products...hmm. I'll have to ponder that for a while, Melody. A really good question.

I've often seen a lot of Arthurian legend in

SW, too, Jean. That's one subject I could talk over till the cows come home. (Ghads, speaking of naive farm-kid statements...yuck!) Love triangles are such a problem because of the mores--recent ones, at that, historically--we have grown to accept as "right and proper." Once again, ownership comes into the picture. Because that's what ORIGINALLY started the "only one love to this lifetime" theory. "You're MINE and no one else's!" S'funny how in every other aspect of our lives, we're expected to give love to as many as possible. Ah, well, I won't hop up on THAT soapbox, not today. Ask me again tomorrow--IF you're prepared to get your ear blathered off! ANYWAY, the Luke-Arthur Leia-Guinevere Han-Lancelot thing reached out and bit me when I saw SW. I think it's probably one of the reasons I fell so in love with the movie, for I'm an Arthur fan from way back. But I must say, I think that Leia comported herself with a bit more panache than Guinevere. I have seen very few examples of Guinevere that I liked, with the exception of Parke Godwin's (FIRELORD, BELOVED EXILE) and Leia I liked, save in EMPIRE, where I felt sorry for her. Even the Pagan vs. Christian issue is covered in SW, in a way. You have the "old religion" in the Force, and the newer, simpler faith in Han's attitude towards it. The new worlds ending out the old, and the later rebirth of that same old is the difference in SW. The old definitely lost with Arthur's death, even as it would be lost if Luke died. Both the "Kings of Light" are benefactors of the old, even as Lance/Han and Gwen/Leia are pushing for the new, yet willing to use the old, modernized. Hmm.

Now that I've opened up another can of worms...

Again, the hair. It's an interesting thought, but see first paragraph for thoughts on this as regards to Luke. Also, I'm one of the ones tired of all the heroes being blond and the bad guys being dark--for probably the exact opposite reason as yours, Jean. How many times did I try out for interesting "bad" parts in theater, only to be told that I was too "blonde". A lot of MY villains are blonds, just to get back at that! Blondes have more fun? Hah! I either played mad girls or uptight village virgins.

And getting back into what I discussed earlier about children and personality formation, I think it is remarkable that Luke has the capacity to love or give into the Force at all. (One quick thing, Jean--as to "using" the Force, I mean coexistence, going with it, controlling oneself in regards to the power. If the Force "uses" you, you use yourself, and eventually others. Sorry if I didn't make that clear--hope this sheds light on the subject.) I've always been a little peeved at Yoda in this--here's this kid who's been told all his life to only believe in what he can see or touch, and the little fungus expects him to just throw away all those ingrained attitudes in such a short period and believe just because he tells him to. Yoda did teach Luke not to give up out of frustration. He probably was just short of pissed at Obi-Wan for dumping this unlearned bumpkin on his doorstep when he had already retired long since. But, considering all the using that has been done in regards to Luke, I say it says a lot for the man that he can swallow it all and still agree to love. He's surpassed himself with the ability to unlearn. And if he has had false starts, that's the learning process. I agree, Jean, with your vision of Luke in this. He has not learned the lessons when most impressionable and is learning them late, but he IS learning them. Which is more than most people ever do. And that

gets directly into the last sentence of your letter. How many people are telling the truth? From what we've seen, it seems that Obi-Wan and Yoda are not as "light" as people would think. But then, age and learning does not mean wisdom. It comes from the heart, and Luke, Han and Leia have learned how to capture that, in full.

JEDI/FORCE SONGS

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July 30, 1985

Hi, everyone. Before I get off on a tangent, I'd like to make a request of SE readers. I'd like to compile a tape of "Jedi/Force" songs for those moments when I begin to suspect the Darkside's taken up residence in the attic and I need some inspirational jazz to scare it off. I have a couple already on hand, but would appreciate any suggestions anyone can toss my way. Not that I want this collection to be too heavy; I am going to start it off with "Weird Al" Yankovic's rendition of the old filk, "Yoda" (tune: "Lola") and will probably end it with a perfectly horrible C&W song that came out post-ANH, entitled "May the Force Be With You, Sweetheart". So far, and to prime the hunt, I have Dan Fogelberg's "Nexus":

"At the point of total darkness
and the light's divine divide,
a soul can let its shadow stretch
and land on either side.
Wealthy the spirit that knows its own flight
Stealthy the hunter who slays his own fright*
Blessed the traveller who journeys
the length of the light."

[**Stealthy the hunter who slays his own pride", to the official version, citing Obi-Wan as a good example of someone who is not afraid, but who is still mighty prideful.] And I have his "The Higher You Climb." The Nylons' "Prince of Darkness" also seems apt:

"when every heart has finally found the courage
to love with all its might,
the chains will be broken,
the doors will burst open
and we shall know the power of the light.
Prince of Darkness, you have no power here..."

Any and all suggestions (in SE or by mail) will be appreciated; maybe the reasons for choosing the songs will add to our discussion of the Jedi. For example, in the line above with the asterisk, Susan and I prefer the way we hear the song sung.

Speaking of Jedi, I'd like to agree with various people that many ideals need not be pervasive in the Order; individual enclaves could vary in what is considered "important". For example, I present

the Greenpeace movement. I, personally don't agree 100% with their nuclear arms stance, but I would have no trouble thinking of them as a good Terran enclave despite those disagreements. Their individual members, I am sure, vary in levels of "goodness" as all humans do, but their work, I think, qualifies for good Jedi work.

Now to the last issue: I was absolutely fascinated by the difference between Michelle Malkin's impression of early letterzinedom vis a vis Han/Luke fans! What a marvelous example of how two intelligent adults can see the same material in ways often 180 degrees out from one another. SE readers, especially those new to letterzines, will, I suppose, have to look at Mickey's and my letters over the past issues to decide whose reaction they agree with. I've thought about some of the factors that can affect a person's judgments, and offer the following as background for my own assessments (I'm sure Mickey has equally valid criteria, and I think I'd better add that none of the following are meant to imply that Mickey's ideas are their opposites):

First, of course, has to be my stand on the characters. I like Han, I always have, even when his screen image was still a bit questionable. I've paid my dues as a "Hanatic" with what sometimes seems like 60 jillion words of fanfic since 1977. But, he was never my only reason for liking the films; Luke, Leia, Chewie, Obi-Wan, etc., also claim my allegiance. I remember spending a lot of time fantacizing how I could be a Jedi AND have the life of a Corellian freighter captain. Further, I enjoy more private fantasies about any number of the other male persons in the story line. I like Han...but I've always craved his pilot's seat, not his bed. So, perhaps I was not as defensive of him when people waxed sarcastic about his less-than-perfect image, his questionable heroic, pre-TESB stance. Han struck me as well as others as a bit of a con man who played at being a mercenary, who tended to shoot the bad guys a tad bit more quickly than was usually accepted in then-current American mythos (pre-Dirty Harry). I simply liked him even that way (as I liked him mid-change in TESB, and as a happily, somewhat reformed guy in JEDI. And since I identified with Han, I reacted to some of the ruder name-calling as I imagined he would: TS, buddy, and So What?

Next, I suspect that old nemesis, vocabulary, came into play. If someone did call Han a con man, I wouldn't have gotten upset. I've worked with that sort before, becoming quite fond of some, and have always just made sure I kept my ears open, my brain working and my wallet closed. Outlaws are people, too, and some are valuable people to know. But another fan might have read the same words, con man, outlaw, nerf herder, and translated them as hate words, as accusations of despicable immorality. A corollary of this problem is the misunderstanding that arises when Fan A describes actions of Han that not only do not fit Fan B's image of Solo, but which, according to Fan B's code of conduct, totally thrust Solo out of the realm of possibility for hero/love/like status. Fan B then rises to Han's defense in no uncertain terms and Fan A feels put upon.

At work, also, is the way a letterzine winds a path through fannish socializing. A fan who only reads other fans' opinions may read a discussion differently from a fan who reads a letter with a background of party talk, local fannish gossip, regular fannish exchange available to her. I live in Seattle; I didn't make it back to any midwest/

eastern cons until post-TESB. Mickey--lucky she--lives in the midwest and interacts with lots more people than I ever did or have. It's entirely possible that she knew what lay between the lines of those letters way back then better than I ever imagined.

I do agree with Mickey that major difference between then and now is that the various waves of dogmatism faded more quickly in earlier days. Which brings up another bit of history. There's been a lot of mention recently about The Duncans of Oregon, a lot of comparison between their absorption with Luke and the current emphasis on Han. There has also been a certain amount of excuses made for current Han dogmatism through an alleged Duncan precedent. I'm going to stick my neck out and protest the revisionism I see developing. I'm open to discussion on the matter if anyone out there is interested; I think the newer fans need as clear a view on what happened as possible.

For those who weren't around then, the Duncans published AGAINST THE SITH, early in 1978, a zine that vies with SKYWALKER (Bev Clark, ed.) for being the first major SW zine (I've never gotten the chronology straight). ATS published for about 3 years, and was Very Conservative in its outlook. Luke was openly deified, Leia was criticized for her liberation, Han was Not Approved Of. Many of the stories and articles and LoCs they wrote provided liberal fandom with hours of entertainment/indignation; but they did have their following, and they did introduce to fandom a lot of people still around. I knew them, in a fannishly social sense; they were naive, parochial, and young.

But their "sin" was not in promoting Luke as Christ. What turned fandom on the Duncans with a vengeance was their post TESB letter to fan ed's, and to Lucasfilm, demanding that TESB be burned, that fans boycott the film, that fandom agree with them, in their insinuation that Lucas was a servant of Satan. Fandom was furious with this letter. I remember hours spent on the phone with people across the country, discussing the issue (trying to explain backwoods Oregon mores and social perceptions to anyone outside the Northwest is not easy, believe me. Apologies to any Oregonians out there, but you gotta admit, the NW does have its share of Strange People and Places). Anyway. Fans wrote LF protesting the Duncans, defending their image. Fans wrote the Duncans protesting...you can imagine. Some of the letters were pips.

Not long after this, the Duncans quit fandom. Intolerance and self-righteousness are what felled them, though, not their opinions of Luke, Han or anyone else. And all this happened 5 years ago. I personally do not think that the Duncan scandal is legitimate ground for the current debate over whether Han fans should feel the need to defend their favorite against Luke fans. Especially not when the only issue remotely resembling the absolutism of the Duncans is the dogmatic way some people are (and have been for issue after issue after issue of letterzines) presenting Han.

Onward to some short answers:

Chris Callahan asked if there were any "grey" side of the Force stories about. I'll plug roomie Susan Matthews' "Left Hand Jedi" (COMBINING FORCES #2) here, and then double the plug in answer to Mary Keever's question about stories in which Leia goes outlaw with Han. That's close to what happens in Susan's "Lady of the Outlaws", an old, pre-TESB story first printed in the Australian zine, SOLO (we think), and then reprinted in ERRANTRY #1.

Mary also asked about various reactions to the Triple Bill. In Seattle, we had the opportunity to see all three films in a row during JEDI's run when ANH and TESB were booked into the theatre across the street. The local audience was great, very attentive and obviously well versed in the Saga. In my opinion, the story holds together very well in one big viewing because you get to see Lucas' plotting and character development without the three year intervals that let imaginations run wild, and have led to people becoming rigid in their ideas of what was going to/what should happen. Viewed as a whole, the Saga is definitely Luke's story, with Han and Leia's relationship playing a nice counter point.

Tim Blaes: Hi, and believe me, eccentric girls got beat up in school, too. My problems were with the local Irish kids who disapproved of my nonconforming ways, and my orange sweaters (hey, I was Polish; St. Pat meant nothing to me). Re strong presentations of Leia, read Ellen Randolph's A NEW CHALLENGE. She explores Leia's confrontation with her dark side quite nicely.

Cheree, you asked about THE EWOK ADVENTURE. As a movie for the very young set (under 7), I thought it just fine. That age group so often gets stuck with smurfs and care bears. It wasn't perfect, no, but what is? I do think ABC should be rasped for its placement of commercials, especially at the end when it ignored the natural breaks and destroyed the suspense.

As for the male/female fan question...I was going to chew up some scenery over this old, dependable subject since I'm one female who has always preferred action/adventure to heavy relationship stories, but it is hard to deny that many more women prefer the latter. Maybe that's because our culture teaches women to survive by reacting, rather than by acting. Hence, stories that delve into the mysteries and nuances of reacting to life and people are considered more valuable. Guys generally are taught that their survival depends on doing something, so they prefer stories that show them how to accomplish just that. I know I was raised to be active, and often become impatient with media-fandom's obsession with relationships, even creating them in the author's mind where none seem to exist. Ideally, in my opinion, both extremes--relationships with no plot, and plot with no relationships should be avoided.

Similarly, articles about Ford filming WITNESS, or Hamill's stage plays don't interest me and only make it harder to convince a mundane or a SF fan that media fandom isn't really movie star fandom in disguise. I'm sure many people enjoy the pieces, but they have nothing to do with SW, which is why I'm here. I sometimes feel as uncomfortable with all the lusting after the male actors in media fandom as I do with all the naked ladies in Science Fiction Review. Maybe I'm just an odd duck.

A last subject, albeit, a longer one (but I promise no more than 6 pages, Cheree. I firmly believe in one stamp LoCs).

Questions about Yoda's various statements came up quite a bit in the last ish. Although I suspect the old 'shroom was scripted to be ambiguous, here are my interpretations, for what they're worth: To Lin Ward--I believe Obi-wan calls Yoda "the Jedi Master who taught me", so we do have on-film confirmation of Yoda's status. Kurtz at Noreascon in '80, though, did insinuate that Yoda may never have been a Jedi Knight.

To Cindy Rodriguez: I've always felt that

Yoda's "once you start down the darkside" quote was a Swish way of tackling the concept of Original Sin. Teachers often speak in ideal terms to give us something to work toward, and, ideally, a person never bites the apple. But, because we are all 'sinners', everyone's life is dominated by the temptations of the Darkside, once we pass the "age of reason" (a la Catholic theology). Yoda's phrase could be interpreted to mean: Once you lose your innocence, you can never regain it; be aware of this and always question your motives.

Someone (can't find who) questioned Yoda's "you do not believe/that is why you fail" attitude, asking if this implied the necessity of a religious faith in the Force (and by implication, the exclusion of non-believers). If you pair the phrase with another, "Do or do not/there is no try", it appears more a pragmatic approach to problem-solving than a question of dogma. While in a proto-management position at work, I've noticed that the people who simply sit down and do something, who believe that they can do that something, succeed far more often than those whose attitude is "well, I'll try". The latter seem to go into a task with a mark already against them, and if they fail, the implication is often accepted that, well, they really weren't up to the task after all. The doers, on the other hand, don't take it personally if they fail; they simply keep doing it until it works right. Hence, what I think Yoda is saying to Luke is: since the Force flows from within to act upon an object, so long as you harbor a doubt in yourself (i.e., I'll try, which means I suspect I might fail), you will never succeed. If you believe, you may fail once, twice, more times, but your odds of eventually succeeding are as high as they can be. Han's faith in himself is a good example of how it works. He's aware of the various dangers he faces, but they are merely parts of his 'action equation'. Han may fail at something; Han often runs the risk of the Last Big Failure, but, hey, at least he'll go out doing something, rather than as a victim. I've always felt that one of the tasks the Han Solo character had in the Saga was to serve as a concrete example to Luke of Yoda's Do or Do Not approach.

Whew! Made it! Till next time...

FIRST MEDIAWEST

Barbara Izzo
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Bridgewater, NJ 08807

July 30, 1985

I regret this is so late, but I've just returned from vacation and realized that SE's deadline is here. I hope I'm not too late. Anyway, the postmark reads "July 31st!"

First of all, Cheree, No. 8 was an interesting issue. I enjoyed the pictures taken at MW, and I know your other subscribers who were not able to attend the convention will enjoy them also. It's always nice to put a name to a face.

Speaking of MW, it was my first time and I had a ball! I got to meet so many folks I had only

heard of before or written to in letters. The whole tone of the convention was light--even if we didn't have a "summer" movie to attend. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lori and Gordon for the excellent way--in my opinion--the convention was run. From the accommodations to the food, to the helpful hotel staff, it was a really pleasant experience and I'm certainly looking forward to next year, where I can renew acquaintances and friendships made this past May. Congratulations again, Lori and Gordon. I had a great time!

A week after I returned from MW, I had the opportunity to attend a Creation Con in New York (on the first day of the hotel strike!), where the guests were Nichelle Nichols and Robert Englund who played Willie, the 'friendly alien' of the ill-fated TV show, "V". Mr. Englund voiced some very interesting opinions concerning the show and why it failed. One of the most important reasons (and I agree with him) is that the show had no writer who was even familiar with the science fiction genre. The actors knew more about what should have gone into the show than the writers and, obviously, the producers. He said it was downright frustrating because they could see the show losing its audience. He agreed with several people in the audience that the two first shows (I forget the exact titles) were the best.

At a previous con a few months back, Jeff Yagher who played Kyle Bates, said that when the network decided to air the show as a weekly series, they had a budget to work with and, unfortunately, that budget kept getting smaller and smaller. And, both he and Englund agreed that it was a mistake to write Ham Tyler (Michael Ironside) out of the show.

I just thought some of you "V" fans would be interested in the above. Never much of a fan myself, my interest was renewed when I picked up a new zine at MW devoted to the show [VIVA LE RESISTANCE! from Pandora Press]. After finishing the premier issue (which was in two volumes!) I couldn't help but think that if the show had had writers such as these, it would have been on the air forever!

I know this has nothing to do with SW, but it's not the first time we've digressed.

Also, just want to quickly note that I enjoyed very much BACK TO THE FUTURE and COCOON. Did not care for GOONIES. The soundtrack drove me wild! I don't know what they were trying to accomplish, but the whole thing should be recut and reedited. And, yes, I saw E.T. again and loved it again and cried again and had a good feeling AGAIN! So, there!

Now, back to SW. I found it most amusing (going back to No. 7) that Sandra Necchi can no longer "judge Han harshly" and that "he's not easy to stay mad at". By her own admission she hadn't seen the film (EMPIRE) in a few years and that her last letter had been a "tirade expressing past feelings based on skewed memories...etc., and recent fan deification of the character..."

Sandra, to that I can only say, "Huh?" You have yelled and stamped your feet and taken to task Han fans on the basis of a few viewings of TESB! Very unfair, Sandra. Obviously the Han fans deeply believe in their character and have seen TESB many times over so naturally their feelings run close to the surface. But here you come along and admit that well, you never saw TESB except for a few times, I think, but you denigrated those who did with your criticisms of the character and tirades against all the "wrong" things he's done throughout the trilogy! I think I had my biggest laugh when

you actually stated that Han and Leia could have a fulfilling marriage. I love it when people change their opinions--especially on subjects that agree with mine but why, Sandra, do I have this feeling that something is not quite as it seems? There's a spot between my shoulder blades that keeps twitching, telling me that something's not right. Of course, I might be wrong--and I hope I am, but I still get that itchy feeling. Sandra Necchi thinks Han Solo is not so bad? I have a bad feeling about this!

Will there ever be any more SW movies? Again, I have a bad feeling about this. I keep reading that George Lucas is getting involved in other projects, the latest being a 20-minute movie starring Michael Jackson to be shown at the SW exhibit in Disneyland, and a project with Jim Henson. Guess he didn't like DARK CRYSTAL!

Speaking of SW, I hope all of you who are...uh...members of the OSWFC, and I hate to admit I am, as it is the only source to obtain SW patches, I hope you filled out and mailed in the questionnaire with your latest renewal. I just received the latest issue of "Bantha Tracks" and obviously a lot of people asked about the future of SW. As usual, the reply (written in an editorial by Maureen Garrett) was very ambiguous. Something to the effect that yes, there would be future films, but as to when we don't know. Thanks a whole hell of a lot, George! I got the feeling he'd like the whole thing to go away. So, the SW films are coming -so's Christmas, George!

Way to go, Barbara Tennison. It was great to read your comments about WITNESS. Yes, Mr. Ford certainly has proven to a lot of doubting critics that there is an actor underneath Han Solo and Indiana Jones. I think we first had a glimmer of it in the small, but very memorable role of Kenny Boyd in HEROES. I think BLADE RUNNER was a difficult film and the character of Rick Deckard very hard to portray. BR is another film that gets better each time you see it. Further, I didn't mean to say the characters of Han and Indy do not require acting. Ford proved this in JEDI. IMAGINE WHAT HE COULD HAVE DONE IF HE ONLY HAD A PART IN THE FILM!

That's it for now, Cheree. Think I'll go curl up with a good 'Book'.

JEDI THOUGHTS

Jeannie Webster
416 E. 241st Street
Woodlawn, NY 10470

July 9, 1985

Sally Syrjala brought up a very interesting point. Why don't the Jedi seem to know of their power until it's revealed to them? Is it just a dormant ability, needing a catalyst (sorry, Jenni) to awaken it? Or, on the other hand, does everyone have such power, the only difference being between those who are trained and those who are not? This might well make the Jedi and artificially manufactured elite no more powerful than the people they're governing, or protecting (or whatever you want to

call their function). The last might fit best, even though it seems uncomfortably close to being an artificially created master race. The difference, hopefully, would lie in what criteria are used to choose potential Jedi. If as Obi-Wan said, "It's an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us. It binds the galaxy together", then everyone would have the Force. If everyone has the Force, to some degree, couldn't everyone then learn to use it in some way? Perhaps the relative strength of the Force in the person decides whether or not they should be trained as Jedi. Of course, it is quite possible that things were done in this way when the Jedi were in their prime. It might be that the Emperor was receiving some sort of Force training, then tried to go too far on his own, through pride or ambition, then became dominated by the dark side, finally over time, turning into the creature we saw in JEDI.

Then, there's the matter of the training. Why create this artificial entity, instead of training everyone to use the powers they possess? It could be that since the Jedi were "guardians of peace and justice in the Old Republic", they were given the training in order to give them an advantage over their adversaries. Since, in their training they seem to be directly confronting good and evil, once they passed their final test, they have earned the right to be trusted with such power over others. From firsthand experience, they would be in a good position to judge, at that point. That could be what is meant by falling to the dark side: using power for its own sake instead of for the common good, as was intended. Use of the Force in that manner has a high price, as evidenced by Darth and the Emperor, absolute power corrupting absolutely.

The experience of Darth and the Emperor makes me think that way back, before the Jedi, there may have been a similar occurrence, when use of the Force was first being explored. It's not hard to imagine this kind of experimentation backfiring and being taken advantage of in a power struggle. Suppose that was one of the reasons the Jedi were formed: to safeguard against the wild development of active Force-users.

Barbara Tennison: That was a very good point you made about Palpatine's taunting of Luke not being verbal. That was quite a weakness in characterization. Stupidity certainly doesn't seem to be one of Palpatine's problems. With the "givens" we have on Jedi powers, your idea fits better than the screen version. Also, the idea of a fallen Vader being kept around as an example makes a lot of sense. He was a trophy, a living example that either the Jedi turned, or they were destroyed. I also think he got a kick out of giving Vader much of the dirty work to do, dragging him in deeper and deeper after he fell.

Tim Blaes: Love the names of your cats. I can sympathize with you on T'Poww--I've got one like that, too--an over-affectionate purr with legs.

Cheree's editorial comment on animated shows gave me a great weird idea for your movie list: How about "Jonny Quest meets the Goonies"? And, as for your being a sacrificial offering, well, the secret's finally out, heh heh heh. The human-sized french fry dipper is waiting for you in the hall closet.

I have to reserve judgment on THE EWOK ADVENTURE. Like Cheree, I taped the thing, but didn't watch it, except for a few minutes or so. If you want the truth, I still haven't gotten around to watching that particular tape. Gives you an idea

of how impressed I was by what I saw.

I saw Ford in that *IRONSIDE* episode, too. But, if you want to see the "rail" turn into "Fat Chester", keep your eyes peeled for a turkey called *JOURNEY TO SHILOH*. In that movie (which co-stars just about every contract player who was on TV in the '60's), a rather tubby Harrison keeps starting his scenes hidden behind the rest of the group. The comical part is seeing how he slithers out from the background to the foreground every time, shoving his face right into the center of the shot. Additional bit of trivia: the thing was made B.C. (before caps). This is really obvious in the publicity pix from the movie. No sign of the Chicklets.

Carole Regine: Like many people now involved in SW, I was involved in Trek fandom during the heyday of Kraith. I didn't agree with the premise either, but the philosophy was very persuasive. A majority of people (at least those who wrote for the zines I was reading) were writing either partially or totally in that alternate universe. Yes, they were at least as dogmatic as some of today's SW splinter groups. Disagreeing was like bashing your head against the proverbial stone wall. To be quite honest, some of the recent letterwars remind me quite strongly of the atmosphere around Kraith, with their insistence on "you believe in the way I see these people or you're wrong."

It's a shame, but that sort of lack of tolerance seems to be fairly common in all fandoms. (Note the recent discussions of Norman Spinrad's attitudes towards fans.) I gaffiated for a brief period in the early 80's and when I returned I was concentrating on SW and Raiders, so I couldn't swear as to whether or not this elitism is still going on. My opinion is, though, that it probably still has its adherents. I can't see its having totally died away, since it was as strong in its time as K/S has been more recently.

In connection with the above discussion of Kraith, I thought of Marcia Brin's comment on "outcries about Han fans...deifying Han." I don't want to comment on that directly, but I have noticed in recent years a trend toward stories which turn Han into a fully trained Jedi and savior of the universe. (Before I get jumped all over, let me say that I'm a rabid Han fan, while still liking the kid. I also have nothing against this genre per

se, for I've read and enjoyed many well done stories with that basic premise.) What disturbs me is the tendency to turn him into a copy of Luke, as if being a Jedi is the only way he can contribute to the Rebellion. The message I get from many of these stories is that one has to be a Jedi to be a worthwhile person. It reminded me VERY strongly of the premise Cheree mentioned from Kraith. Character development is one thing. I don't by any means mean to deny anyone of the right to their perception of the characters. I just don't see why, if a person likes a character enough to write about them, they would want to turn them into a clone of an already existing character. In both Trek and SW, the three characters are written as complements of each other. This balance is strained, if not destroyed, when you try to make them identical. IN SOME CASES, I can't help wondering whether the person just needs a Jedi to do what they feel Luke COULD HAVE or SHOULD have done.

Couple more things before I close (I want to allow plenty of time this so I don't run any risk of missing the deadline). Annie's article on the adventures she and her antennae had in NYC was fun. Really liked the snapshots from MediaWest. As someone who's only been to one fancon (and that back in 1980), it was fun to finally see what some of these nice folks look like. Tracking down the Mediafen is hard at a Worldcon.

As to your request on writers vs. readers, I do both (as if you didn't know; you've only printed some of it!). The stories so far are all IJ, though I've done shorts on SW. This isn't deliberate; it's just that all the stuff I think up has already been done by far better writers than I am.

Hope someone finds Sally some Luke porn so she can stop drooling all over the phone wires. Not only does she get my ear all wet, but wet wires screw up the MCI service!

Hope to see some of you nice people at Mor East 1y!

((Ed's note: And if you think you're seeing Jeannie Webster coming and going in this issue, you're right! And that's partially my fault in not noticing that she had two letters in this issue until I'd already finished with the typing and refused to redo it!))



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MELANGE IV--Mixed media anthology featuring RAIDERS, REMINGTON STEELE, HANOVER STREET, BIONIC WOMAN and STAR WARS fiction by Juanita Salicrup, Jean L. Stevenson, Jon R. McKenzie, Cheree T. Cargill, Martie Benedict and Patricia D'Orazio. Poetry by Teresa Sarick, Kathryn Agel, Kelly Hill and Jean L. Stevenson. Art by Barbara Fister-Liltz. \$6.00 ppd. Checks payable to: Barbara Fister-Liltz, Pandora Publications, 8601A Cermak Rd., No. Riverside, IL 60546. MELANGE V is now available. SASE for info.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH. A virgin zine featuring an "In-Laws" story by Ann Wortham. Why was it that trouble seemed to follow Han Solo no matter where he went? All he had to do was buy a certain lady a drink. "Mourning" by Jeanine Hennig. Leia and Wedge share an ancient ritual in memory of Alderaan. "With a Bit of Luck" by Carolyn Cooper. Luke spends the first day with his newly discovered daughter, only to find that a six-year-old can keep a Jedi busy! Also, stories and poetry by Cheree Cargill, Mark and Melea Fisher, Violet Nordstrom;

puzzles by Lynda Vandiver. Premiering artwork by Jim Markle, Steve Bales, Mark Fisher and Melea Roden Fisher, and including artwork by Jenni and Dani. \$10.00 includes postage. Make checks payable to Melea Fisher, 3474 No. Beltline #2133, Irving, TX 75062.

ON THE MARK--the newsletter for Mark Hamill fans! Each issue is from 6 to 8 pages and includes articles on the current career of Mark Hamill, plus exclusive photographs, artwork, JEDI and Star Wars news, cartoons, a letter column and special articles on Mark's past career accomplishments. Published quarterly with the approval of Mark Hamill. A one year subscription gets you 4 issues and announcements of special events. \$4.00/yr U.S., \$8.00 overseas. Make checks payable to Lisa Cowan, PO Box 5276, Orange, CA 92667.

OUTLAND CHRONICLES #2. Stories by Kathryn Agel, Susan Matthews, Ann Wortham, Charles Garofalo, Christine Jeffords, Eva Albertsson, C. S. Armitage; art by Lybarger, Martynn, Summers, Stasulis, Stocking; filks, poetry, puzzles, more! SASE for info. OC#3 will accept stories through Aug. 1, filler and art through Nov. 1, SASEs anytime, for a hoped for December debut. Phantom Press, Christine Jeffords, 630 Bloomfield Ave., Verona, NJ 07044.

PERCEPTIONS--A new fanzine dedicated to Harrison Ford. Now available. Writers include Carolyn Golledge, Maggie Nowakowska, Cheree Cargill. Art by Cheryl Fint, J. R. Dunster, Cheree Cargill, Bonnie Burns. SASE for flyer. De-Van Press, 1108 Pepper Dr., Madisonville, KY 42431.

ROGUE'S GALLERY. Ford fans--put more scoundrels in your life! RG is a news digest devoted to Harrison Ford's movies and activities, past, present and future. Printed quarterly. In its fourth year of printing. \$15.00 (\$25.00 foreign airmail) to Joann Emerson, Route #1, Cushing, WI 54006.

SCOUNDREL--The "no frills" letterzine devoted to the SW saga. \$6.50/4 issues; \$1.25 per issue. Published quarterly. Checks payable to Joan Shumsky, 24 Meehan Ave., Raritan, NJ 08869.

SHADOW DANCE--Media zine devoted to those lovable scoundrels. #1 -- \$7.50. Fiction by Callahan, Smith line. Poetry by Hunter, Baker. Art by Wells, Davenport. SASE for more info. #2 in the planning stages. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001 - 14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

SHOOTING STAR #1. The Original Mark Hamill zine. "Roommates" by Kim Gianna. Luke's parentage is the type laughed at in "B" movies, as he soon finds out! "Hamillquest" by Mary Soderstrom. Elfquest was never like this! Art by Davenport, Burnside, McPherson, Jenni. Cover by J. R. Dunster. \$6.00 FC. Galactic Winds Press, Jeanine Hennig, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

SITH YEARBOOK - An Imperial-oriented zine in the tradition of Imperial Entanglements. Writers include Bonder, Habel, Hines-Stroede, Necchi, Tennison/Stevens, Wilson. Art by Bonder, Contessa, Habel, Hummel, Rosenthal, Stasulis, Van Riper, Griffith, Bernie! and bes shahar. Price \$7.00 plus \$2.40 for 1st class postage. Susan W. Henderson, 40 Westminster Ave., Portland ME 04103. Some same-sex relationships (yes, Piett and Serzho are back,

better than ever).

SOUTHERN KNIGHTS, a new SW zine, is now available but going fast! Contents include: "Command Performance" by Liz Sharpe, "Beginnings" by Jeanine Hennig, "The Seeds of Revenge" by Cheree Cargill, "No Way to Treat a Lady" by Carole Regine, "Requiem" by Danaline Bryant, "Reawakening" by Carolyn Golledge, and even more! Work by Virgil, Dani, Sansom, Rosenthal, Nussman, Shumsky, Carr, Hall, McCurry and others. Price is \$12.50 first class. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS, a new multimedia zine, will be available at More Eastly Con. Stories include: "Hogtown Hustle" (MV) by Susanne McGhin, "The Thousandth Man" (AW) by Louann Qualls, "Adventurer for Hire" (IJ) by Cargill and Virgil, "The Lessons of History Raid" (RP) by Linda Knights, "Cockpit Conversation" by Carolyn Golledge, "A Wink of God's Eye" (SW) by Katrina Snyder, "One Lonely Knight" (KR) by Lorraine Bartlett, "Time in It's Flight" (S&S) by Christine Jefferts and lots more. SC&MK, ST, W&W, WWW, BR, B7, DR. WHO, TJH, VOYAGE, etc. are all represented. Work by Lybarger, Jenni, Dani, Sansom, Taero, Rosenthal, Hall, Adolf, Webster, Farnsworth and others. \$15.00 at conventions, \$18.00 fc or \$17.00 UPS. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS SPECIAL 1.5. An all MAN FROM UNCLE mini-zine. The stories in this zine are adult in nature although no same-sex or violence is depicted. An age statement is requested. Price is \$4.00 fc or \$3.00 if ordered with SOUTHERN LIGHTS #1. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. I'd like to do the same sort of thing with SOUTHERN LIGHTS #2 but focus on BLAKE'S 7--anybody got a story to send me???

SYNDICATED IMAGES is a media zine, first published in Jan. '85. In #1: GALACTICA, ST, SW, UFO, THE PROFESSIONALS, BLAKE'S 7. Fiction by Jenson, Heston, Adamson, Brock, Sterling. #2: SW, ST, STING-RAY, ALIEN, PROFESSIONALS. Fiction by Brock, Heston, Sterling. #3: SW, KNIGHT RIDER, GALACTICA, BLAKE'S 7, CAPTAIN SCARLETT. Fiction by Jenson, Heston, Adamson. #4: SW/JEDI, ROAD WARRIOR/MAD MAX 2, PROFESSIONALS, UFO. Fiction by Heston, Jenson, Conrad. All issues illored by Adamson & Adamson. #1 out in Jan. '85, zine is approximately bimonthly--#4 out July '85. The emphasis is on action and adventure. Each ish is A4, 50pp, reduced, offset or Canon copy. Price, incl. of airmail: to USA: US\$7. To UK: £5. Other countries, please send SAE and 2 IRC's for flyers. IMO's; no checks please. Add \$1 to your total order to cover conversion charges--make IMO's payable to JJ Adamson. Send to: THE ENTROPY EXPRESS, PO BOX 270, BRIGHTON, SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5048.

THE OLD REPUBLIC READER. Quarterly, 20 pp, comp-typed, short illored SW fic., poetry, toons, comics, articles. TORR is available for \$1.75/issue or \$6/4 from Suzy Sansom, 376 Granada Drive, So. San Francisco, CA 94080. Editor is seeking filler art submissions--please help.

THE PRINCESS TAPES, a SW/Princess Leia-oriented fanzine is now available from Krystarion Press for the cover price of \$7.00. Contains 5 stories including 3 pre-SW tales from Leia's background, 3 articles, two poems, two art portfolios, our in-

famous "unclassifieds", and much more. TPT also features a color cover by Connie Faddis. Send SASE or SASP for mailing information. Sorry about that, but it varies too much for one price to cover all. Send to Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE PRINCESS TAPES: THE PROLOGUE is still available for \$1.50 cover price, \$2.50 fc mail. If ordered together with TPT, send SASE or SASP for mailing costs. Send to Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #1: Nominee for the 1984 "FAN #*&(% Award". Fiction, articles and poetry by Ripley, Peed, Thomas, Martz, Rogan, Saye and others. Art by River, Peed, Fregni, Carleton and others. Cover by Karen River. \$12.50, first class mail, \$10.00 in person. Double D Press, Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #2: Dedicated to all of you who thought we'd learned our lesson: Here we go again! Fiction by Golledge, Ripley, Cope, Martz and others; art by Lybarger, River, Charvat, Peed, Dani, Bryant, and others; plus poetry, articles, puzzles and something to offend Absolutely Everyone! 208 pages, perfect bound \$13.50 in person. For postage, add \$3.50 first class, or \$1.00 book rate. Double D Press, Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

UNIVERSAL TRANSLATOR is a quarterly newsletter listing available, proposed, and international zines for all media fandoms in a convenient, "see-at-a-glance" format. Also includes reviews, con info, and other items of interest to fandom. \$2.75 per iss. (\$3.75 overseas); subscriptions are available for up to two issues--\$5.50 (\$7.50 overseas). Make checks payable to Susan J. Bridges, 200 West 79th St. 14H, New York, NY 10024. Editors, ads are free and we are looking for yours!

VHF-THE COMPLETE BOOK OF LYRICS. All the lyrics to all of Martie Benedict's songs celebrating the many film roles of Harrison Ford. Art by Wanda Lybarger and Carlotta Vaughan. A must for fans of Martie's songs! \$12.00 fc. Martie Benedict, 1705 Eagle View Dr. #4, Colorado Springs, CO 80909.

WELL OF THE SOULS #4: "An Eye for an Eye" by Tammy Monfette. Indy and Belloq are drawn to a mysterious jungle city for the legendary jewels it is said to hold. What they find there is more than they bargained for...or could conceive of in their wildest dreams--or worst nightmares. "The Exhibit" by Carol-Lynn Sappe'. A handsome archaeologist and his beautiful assistant try to retrieve the Ark of the Covenant from its hiding place. If you think you've heard it before, you're wrong because this archaeologist's name is Marcus B. Jones and this is today! "As Time Goes By", by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. A few small incidents from the life and times of Dr. and Mrs. Jones, from 1939 to 1983. Sometimes funny, sometimes serious, but always containing more in-jokes than you can imagine! And more: stories, non-fiction, filks, poems, puzzles, and of course the famous WOTS-style cartoons. Cover by Martynn, art by Cargill, Fint, Kreuz, and Truax. \$6.00 FC from Sally Smith, 38725 Lexington St. #247, Fremont, CA 94536. Xeroxes of #1-3 are available. SASE.

COMING TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #3. Yes, another issue is in the works! TIF#2 will feature a novella by Carolyn Gollledge, shorter fiction by Marcia Brin, T. S. Weddell, Michelle Malkin, Jacqueline Taero, Robin White, Kate Birkel and Gail Small, and more of Martie Benedict's filks. We will also feature a special art portfolios by Steven Fox and Dianne Smith. We are still taking submissions. If interested in contributing, please SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

ALL THAT JAZZ--the first and possibly only all A-Team zine around! #1--Fiction so far by Garrett, Smithline, Habel. Art so far by Larimer. Submissions now being sought and accepted. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

THE BARON OF BESPIN -- Wanted: Contributions to a zine for discriminating adults who understand what it feels like to be caught between a rock and a hard place. We LIKE Lando Calrissian. We appreciate his position. Wanted: short stories, art, poetry, articles, comment, about the Baron, his life, his responsibilities, his place in the SW galaxy and the Alliance. Publishing aims: digest-size zine, Kodak-copied, max 64 pages reduced, pub-date depends on what we get from you. SASE Susan Matthews/Lack Tablecloth FanAc, Ninja Press, 2330 Federal Ave. East, Seattle, WA 98102.

CHOICE PARTS a new Harrison Ford zine, just slightly more on the adult side. Material already accepted includes fiction by Carolyn Gollledge, Ann Wortham, Jeannie Webster and Kate Birkel, and poetry by Pat Nussman and Patricia D'Orazio, with art by Wanda Lybarger, Dianne Smith and other award winning artists. Stories won't be turned down because of sexual content, but we don't want hard x rated stuff either. Editor's discretion and stories will be judged individually. Again, the emphasis is on QUALITY. If interested in contributing, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

CIRCLE OF LIGHT #3. Now soliciting contributions for this SW zine, due out in 1986. All interested parties please contact Jumeau Press at 2720 Exuma Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406.

DRAGON'S TEETH by Carol Hines-Stroede. A novel of the first STAR WARS trilogy. Illustrated by Nancy Stasulis. Edited by Joyce Yasner and Devra Michele Langsam. Coming in the fall from Poison Pen Press, 627 East 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218. SASE for publication date and price.

ECLECTIC--a new multi-media zine is now open for submissions from all fandoms. We will probably concentrate on STAR WARS and STAR TREK, since they have the largest following in media fandom, but all other fandoms, as well as original SF and fantasy creations are welcome, including comix. Our emphasis will be on quality (we intend to do this thing up right with excellent layout and printing), but we are willing to work with submissions that show

promise. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

JUST A COUPLA JOKERS. The first all SIMON & SIMON zine (that we know of!) is looking for submissions of fiction, poetry, filks and art, as well as interested parties in such a zine. Aiming for a Christmas '85 printing, we already have work by Jeffords, Carr and Hall with promises for more. Submissions and SASE's (no money at this time, please!) to Jumeau Press, 2720 Exuma Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406.

JUST DESERTS is an all RAT PATROL zine and will contain: "The Nightmare Raid" by Allen Quale, "The Need for Faith Raid" by Diane Farnsworth and much more. Stories by Rachel Carico, L. A. Carr, Susan Hall, Ann Wortham, Lorraine Bartlett, Cathy Bryson and Carol Jenkins. Art by Virgil, Dani, Brinkmeir, and Otten. \$5.00 and SASE to reserve. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Taking submissions for issue #2 which is half full.

LEGENDS OF LIGHT. As of February 1985 there will not be a third issue of LoL such as issues one and two. The major deterrents are increased job demands and limited financial resources for the editors. However, we are planning to publish the sequel to Susan Voll's "Forerunner" (LoL #1) in Spring 1986. Included with this mini issue will be additional contributions, including short stories, poems, filks, artwork, LoC's for issue #2 and filler material. A firm limit will be imposed on the number of pages in this third issue. Contributions will not be accepted until September 1, 1985. Please watch for future notices in the ad sections of zine for details. Thanks to everyone for their support of LoL! Rebecca Walker & Susan Voll, editors.

NOT JUST LUKE. A new fanzine in the making! And it's just for Mark! Okay, Hamill fans, now is the time to show your stuff. The time has come for all Mark Hamill fans to show Mark just how much we appreciate his talents. To let him know, he's NOT JUST LUKE! Artwork, poetry, open letters and stories are now being accepted for this special zine. The subject is MARK and all his OTHER portrayals. NOT JUST LUKE! In fact, though Luke may be strong with the Force, very little of him will be allowed in. So, put your thinking caps on! There's so much more to Mark! Remember, he's NOT JUST LUKE! SASE Kelly Francois, 1749 Bainbridge St. #2, La Crosse, WI 54603.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH #2. Now accepting submissions for a SW zine. Need poetry, stories (short or long), art, filks, and cartoons. No x rated material, please. If interested we would love to hear from you. Please send a SASE to M&M Graphics, c/o Mark and Melea Fisher, 3474 N. Belt line #2133, Irving, TX 75062.

ONE FROM THE HEART A proposed one shot zine dealing with all the characters Mark Hamill has portrayed on television, film and stage. We are currently seeking all types of submissions (open letters, filks, short stories, long stories, artwork). Ann Harvers and Lee Shenker, Co-Editors. Naughty Girls Press, 411-84th St., Brooklyn, NY 11209.

PERFECT FUSION, VOL. I, has been delayed but is still in the works! The first volume of this adult zine published by a former editor of Organia will

contain 75% SW's and 25% SF material. Contributors include: Abelow, Alman, Blaes, Cargill, Denton, Drake, Faraci, Fetter, Hedge, Hennig, Kaplowitz, Knights, Lorestein, Mathai, Malkin, Osman, Stasulis, Swan, Tennison and many others. Age statement required. Beverly Lorestein, Penn Wynn House #101, 2201 Bryn Mawr Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19131.

PERSPECTIVE is the two-part fanzine. The first half is a letterzine where you can air your opinions, insights, and spurts of brilliance on any fan topic in this or any other universe. In other words, anything goes! You determine the content. Part II will consist of fanzine reviews from all genres. Fanzines are so expensive, it's nice to know what you're getting. Submissions for Part I to: Black Unicorn Press, Kerri Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219. Submissions to Part II to: Caitlin Rothermel, Lace Neon Press, 3 Stuyvesant Oval, New York, NY 10009. SASE for deadlines and any other information.

POWER OF SPEECH--a new STAR TREK/media letterzine with NO CENSORSHIP and a primary commitment to fans; seeking essays, reviews, LoCs and art. Civilized controversy welcomed. Send SASE and \$1 to Sandra H. Necchi, 4509 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19139.

REVENGE OF THE SITH. Nearly twenty years have passed since Jedi Master Luke Skywalker fled to the desert world of Tatooine, condemned by the Alliance along with the entire Jedi Order. At the Sanctuary there, training has continued in secret as Luke prepares for a future in which the Jedi Knights will again take their rightful places in the galaxy. But the Lords of the Sith are beginning their move toward ultimate power. REVENGE OF THE SITH is the sequel to A NEW CHALLENGE by Ellen Randolph. Art work by Karen River and Letitia Wells. Available late 1985. \$5.00 and SASE to reserve to Full Court Press, 4460 Euclid Avenue, #17, San Diego, CA 92115 4530.

SHADOW DANCE II. Twice the size of #1. Fiction by: Smithline, Hunter, Wortham, Wardwell, Garret. Poetry by Mary Robertson, including special memorial poem to Jon-Eric Hexum. Games by Vandiver and Erwin. Art by: Brinkmeir, Zan, Dunster. Jon-Eric Hexum cover by J. R. Dunster. Approximately 100 pages. Reserve your copy now! Only 20 more reservations needed to go to press. Final price: \$12.00 USA, \$15.00 overseas. Please make your check payable to K. L. Smithline. Black Unicorn Press, c/o K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219. #1 still available for \$7.50.

SHOOTING STAR #2--The original Mark Hamill zine! "Like an Unfinished Symphony" by Linda Knights. There is one Jedi left besides Luke, but the young Jedi's search leads to unusual circumstances. "Pilgrimage" by Lee Vibber. The Force seems to have deserted Luke after his victory over the Death Star...or has it? Art by Cargill, McPherson, Lane, Jenni and much more. Cover by Karen River! \$4.00 and SASE will reserve your copy. Due out for MediaWest. GaTactic Winds Press, Jeanine Hennig, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

SIGNS OF WISDOM: A "Desert Seed" novel by Carol Mularski; planned for fall/winter 1985. Limited print run based on orders received. To reserve, send \$5.00 and SASE to The Unknown Press c/o Callahan, 6101 Seminole St., Berwyn Heights, MD 20740.

SOUTHERN KNIGHTS #2 will be available at MediaWest '86. Contents will be: "Above All Shadows" by Carolyn Gollidge, "Memories" by Linda Knights, "The Third Man" by Katrina Snyder, "Frisento" by L. A. Carr and much more from Liz Sharpe, Dani, Virgil, Snyder, Hale, Rosenthal, etc. \$5.00 & SASE to reserve. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. There won't be a third issue; SW stories will be offered a home in SOUTHERN LIGHTS, however.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS #2 is now full. We've got more stuff than you can shake a stick at! BLAKE'S 7, SIMON & SIMON, VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, SWAT, AIRWOLF, INDIANA JONES, STAR WARS, RAT PATROL, MAN FROM UNCLE, etc. Work by Gollidge, Cargill, Virgil, Vandiver, Carr, Farnsworth, McGhin, Kirby, Terrell, Knights, Qualls, Paulson, Pollet, Rosenthal, Dani and others. \$5.00 & SASE to reserve a copy. Submissions taken for #3. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

THE COMPLETE ZEEK Vol 1 will be published as soon as I have 100 pre-orders with which to pay the printer. The two-volume set will include all of Anne Elizabeth's non-"Circle of Fire" stories, including pieces from the universes of SW, Trek, Blade Runner, Indiana Jones, Remington Steele, Dracula and more. To reserve, send \$5 and SASE to Pat Nussman, 2J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

THE ENEMIES by Lynne Farr. Did you ever wonder what Darth Vader was doing while Luke was studying on Dagobah, Leia was organizing the rebellion and Han was cooling his heels in carbon freeze? Inquiring minds want to know! SASE for info to Jackie Edwards, 2206 So. 42nd, Omaha, NE 68106.

THE LEADING EDGE is a SF and F zine that features new and old writers and artists. Material for TLE #6 and 7 include stories, poetry, art and articles. If you are interested in submitting or subscribing to TLE, please contact: The Leading Edge, c/o Marion K. Smith, JKHB Rm. #3163, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.

THE MILLENNIUM FALCON CASEBOOK is a thematic one shot seeking contribs; SASE for guidelines. BRIGHTSTAR IN GLORY, the only mainline Brightstar Universe novel will take the Lucas/ Brightstar cast through their analog of ROTJ; written by Christine Jeffords, planned for May '85 debut, and now accepting SASEs. Phantom Press, Christine Jeffords, 630 Bloomfield Ave., Verona, NJ 07044.

THE MONOCLE is a fanzine dedicated to the fantasy TV series WIZARDS AND WARRIORS. Now accepting checks for deposit of \$5.00 plus a SASE which will reserve your copy. Checks should be addressed to Mel L. Gifford. They will not be cashed until I go to press which should be about Jan. 85. Send money to Camarand Press, c/o Mel L. Gifford, 355 East 400 North, Provo, UT 84601.

THE PRINCESS TAPES #2 is open for submissions. Writers needed desperately! Sole, single editor looking for one or more up-and-coming writers (or even more established ones) in media fandom. Object: stories to fulfill THE PRINCESS TAPES backgrounds and personalities for TPT, including Han Solo, Luke Skywalker (childhood), Obi-Wan Kenobi, Wedge Antilles, Chewbacca, etc. Sole editor also needs editorial help (firm but fair) on her own literary

efforts. All who participate will be given full credit, a free zine, and much gratitude (as well as hopefully ego-boo from the fans). Write for details. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE WOLFHAWE TAPESTRIES. Based on the legendary events portrayed in the medieval fantasy LADYHAWKE. Now taking contributions for our premiere issue. Art, fiction, poetry, songs, historical perspectives--anything the fertile mind can conceive and put to paper--are needed and welcome! SASE for info. Wolfhawke Press, Ltd., c/o Sandy Williams, 3738 Holland Avenue, Dallas, TX 75219.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE III: Now accepting contributions of fiction, fact, art, poetry, letters of comment, and general nonsense. (Please do not send us dead poultry COD! Even if you do consider that a "comment"!) Deadline for submissions: January 1, 1986. For submissions guidelines or submissions write Samia Martz, 78 Council Trail, Warrensburg, MO 64093. We will be ready for MediaWestCon Six--will you??

VERTIGO (formerly THING) is in need of contributions for its first issue (a really unique situation, huh?). We accept just about all media, and prefer stories with an off-the-wall slant. Real psychotic stuff. Cross-universe stories, What-If stories, parodies, humor, Twilight Zone-type twist endings, unusual angles, that sort of thing. We also need articles, reviews of just about any sort, and artists. We will consider stories of just about any length but we're not inclined to do continued pieces. VERTIGO will be about 200 pages, unreduced, with an estimated price of \$5.00 plus postage, or less as we are aiming at the cheapest zine in town. Send contributions to: VERTIGO, c/o Tim Blaes, Route 6, Box 294, Hendersonville, NC 28739. To reserve your copy, send a SASE to: Susan Kimzey, PO Box 875, Greer, SC 29651. Remember, if Weird has a name, it must be VERTIGO!

WELL OF THE SOULS #5. Due out Winter '85. Full of more short stories, cartoons, and featuring a full-length novel, "Tinseltown" by Roberta Rogow. Indy, Willie and Shorty return to America and fall in with evil companions like William Randolph Hearst, Katharine Hepburn, F. Scott Fitzgerald, David Niven, Louis B. Mayer...not to mention the Chinese thugs who are out to get Indy and Shorty in revenge for Lao Che's son's death...and a natural disaster or two. You get the idea! I'm still looking for more submissions and am desperate for artists. Sally Smith, 38725 Lexington St. #247, Fremont, CA 94536.

OTHER WORLDS

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM KRYSTARION PRESS: Help an editor complete her mailing lists. If anyone plans on purchasing THE PRINCESS TAPES and already possessed a copy of TPT: THE PROLOGUE, when sending in the order indicate which number of THE PROLOGUE you have. This will be greatly appreciated with mucho thanks by the editor of both the above zines. Also that will allow said editor to match the numbers of both zines for each fan who orders them. Thanks. J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407..

ATTENTION TEXAS SW/LUCAS FANS! The Texas Rebel Alliance and Archaeological Society (TRAAS) is forming to fight the tyranny of the forgotten fen! TRAAS will be a statewide network to spread news & information about the SW/Lucasfilms projects, promote, aide, and prepare programming & exhibits for local cons, and organize parties and special projects. For further information, SASE C. E. Cooper, PO Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

BACK ISSUES OF SF MAGAZINES (Starlog, Fantastic Films, etc.) 1978-1981. Also SW toys & cards: paperbacks on SW, ST, Battlestar Galactica, etc. for sale. Or will trade for SW, SW Doctor Who zines, DW novels and other DW and Tom Baker items. Please send SASE for list. Gayle Johnson, Rt. 4, Box 64, Chatsworth, GA 30705.

BUTTONS MADE TO ORDER. Subjects include Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill, Star Wars, A Team, "V". Photo, general and novelty buttons as well. Legal size SASE for catalog. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001- 14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

CELEBRITY PHOTOS. My candid photos of over 10,000 stars have appeared in national and international publications. SASE for information. Nancy Barr, 506 Windermere Avenue, Interlaken, NJ 07712.

COMING TO YOUR FANDOM NEXT SUMMER CONZINEIENCE! July 4, 5 and 6, 1986. A media convention for fen, by fen! SASE Galactic Winds Press, c/o Jeanine Hennig, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

GEORGE LUCAS APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION SOCIETY. Dedicated to George and George alone, the GLAAS is merely an attempt to bring together those who truly appreciate all that George has done for us. The GLAAS, unfortunately, is in no way related to Lucas film Ltd. and its properties and therefore relies totally on YOU, the appreciative and admiring member for the contents of its quarterly newsletter. The newsletter will be a place for all to voice their opinion, react to another's opinion, display art work, comics and the like. Yet, in no way will it be a place for digression to a level of gossip and smut. George had done so much for us. Let's all appreciate him together. One year membership: \$5.00 (\$8.00 overseas). Write to: GLAAS, c/o Kelly Franco, 1749 Bainbridge Street #2, LaCrosse, WI 54603.

GOOD NEWS, FORD FANS! The Walk of Fame Committee has now accepted the nomination to place a star on the Walk of Fame in Hollywood for Harrison Ford! We still need your help, though! The Star Fund now stands at \$1,725.00 of the \$3000 required. This is the fans' way of saying "Thanks" for the many hours of pleasure Mr. Ford has given us! All contributors will have their name put on a scroll which will be presented to Harrison. This project is being conducted in cooperation with Pat McQueeney Management, the firm that represents Harrison, and with his full knowledge. Strict records are kept of contributions and passed along to Mr. Ford's secretary for their records. Any and all contributions are appreciated. Please note new address: Ruth Scott, PO Box 694, San Bruno, CA 94066.

I AM LOOKING to buy the following zines: FAR REALMS #1-2, GUARDIAN #1-3, SKYWALKER #1-4, and A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #1. If anyone can help, please write to me. Lisa Thomas, 7606 Lady St., Charleston, SC 29418.

I AM OFFERING fair, honest zine reviews in return for free or postage-only copies. Will accept defective copies and will provide copy of review before publication. Am also offering experienced, complete proofreading in return for contrib copy. Sandra Necchi, 4509 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19139.

I AM WISHING TO BUY STAR WARS zines. If you have any you are willing to sell, please send price you are asking, title and condition to Sheryl Herrly, 2330 North Evergreen, Phoenix, AZ 85006.

"I'M STILL PLAYING CATCH-UP!" An out of print reproduction service. The following zines are available by editorial permission: CROSSED SABERS, DOCKING BAY, FACETS, MOS EISLEY CHRONICLE, ARCHAEOLOGY 101, EMPIRE REVIEW, FAR REALMS, MILLENNIUM. Editors inquiries welcomed. SASE for flyer. De-Van Press, 1108 Pepper Dr., Madisonville, KY 42431.

LOOKING FOR OUT-OF-PRINT ZINES? Terminal poverty is forcing me to sell a large part of my gigantic zine collection. Separate lists for Star Trek and Star Wars zines/memorabilia. Send SASE (40¢ for both lists) to R. Magda, 834 W. Lakeside, Chicago, IL 60640.

MIAMI VICE Stationery for sale. Original art by Suzy Sansom. 25 sheets in assorted colors only \$5 post paid. Also available: Indiana Jones, SW. Please SASE for flyer. Available from Suzy Sansom, 376 Granada Dr., So. San Francisco, CA 94080.

NEEDED: all of the British SW comics that feature the "Raiders of the Void!" plot (Goodwin story, Golden art). Will borrow and return or buy for \$1.00 each. 50¢ all other British SW comics. Write Tim Blaes, Route 6, Box 294, Hendersonville, NC 28739.

SALE--includes zines (SW and ST), posters, Japanese photo magazines, comics, Remington Steele photos, artwork, lobby card sets, and more other miscellaneous junkie than you can shake a lightsabre at! For list, SASE Pat Nussman, 2 J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

STAR TREK SLIDES--Set of 20 for \$15. All episodes, all characters. Individually--\$1.00 each, minimum 5 slides. SASE Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

THE OFFICIAL UNOFFICIAL HARRISON FORD MINI-CON. In conjunction with WorldCon 1986, Atlanta, Georgia. This mini-con is in the planning stages, and we need your help. Tentative plans call for renting a room at the hotel for the purpose of gathering together Ford fans for chatting and discussion, and whatever else comes up. Depending on response, we will try to arrange for some tables for the sale of fanzines, etc., and a VCR for viewing tapes of appropriate movies. Suggestions are welcome. SASE for further information. C. L. Smith, 31 Lincoln Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446.

VHF

Harrison Ford-inspired songs by Martie Benedict. Tapes featuring Han, Indy, Kenny, Tommy, Rick and others. New WITNESS tape now available! SASE Martie Benedict, 1705 Eagle View Dr. #4, Colorado Springs, CO 80909.

WANTED: Copies of "Falcon's Flight" #2, 4, 5 & 6. Willing to pay a reasonable amount for them. I hope someone can help me in SW zine world. Want to complete my set. Fran Husejinovic, 1722 Decatur St., Ridgewood, NY 11385.

WANTED: for ROSTIRASA's clippings/articles files: ST and DR. WHO clippings and/or articles wanted from across the country and from overseas. Good, readable copies are acceptable, though the originals are appreciated! Will trade for copies of articles of ST and DW that I have, or copies of articles from Raiders/TOD, Tom Selleck, Knight Rider/Hasselhoff, old Starsky and Hutch, the SW Saga/characters therefrom, and old series ST. SASE's are a must when inquiring on availability of certain articles and they are greatly appreciated otherwise! ROSTIRASA, De Ghysel, PO Box 24, East Rochester, NY 14445.

WANTED: Out-of-print SW zines. Also looking for photographs and SW collectables. I have a few large SW dolls for sale or trade, also access to many more dolls. Sandi Jones, 1038B Heritage Hill Drive, Naperville, IL 60450.

WANTED: Some highly organized person to write episode guides composed of Air Dates, Titles, and brief Synopses of any current TV program of fan interest for those of us videophiles who have been woefully unorganized. Examples: A Team, Airwolf, Doctor Who, Knight Rider, Remington Steele, et al. In case of duplication, only most complete listings will be printed. Partial lists accepted. PERSPECTIVE, Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001 14th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

WANTED: Artists for ALL THAT JAZZ, the all A Team zine. Please send examples of your work along with SASE to: ALL THAT JAZZ, Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

ZINE SALE: Vintage STAR TREK collection, mainly from mid-70's such as "Spock Enslaved", "Kraith Collected", etc. SASE for price list to Sharon R. Saye, 124 Davis St., Apt. A, Bridgeport, WV 26330.

ZINE SALE: Many out of print. Misc. SW stuff for sale. SASE for list. Thekla Kurth, 851 N. Pheasantbrook Cir., Centerville, UT 84014.

3-1/2 x 5 PHOTOS--Harrison Ford color photos from Letterman, Conversation, Graffiti, Dan August, Getting Straight. SASE for flyer. Also Dirk Benedict--20 color photos from the Alan Thicke Show. All photographs are clear and sharp! Excellent artist's reference. Jon-Eric Hexum from Voyagers, Cover up (several sets). SASE for price flyer. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001 14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Martie Benedict
1705 Eagle View Drive #4
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Janet Madden
112 Park St., Apt. 1
Dorchester, MA 02122

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Profiles



Nobody sent in a fan profile this issue, so instead, we're printing a picture of Tim Blaes' cat, T'Poww!

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE

Cheree Cargill
457 Meadowhill Drive
Garland, TX 75043

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